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Sports pg 17



**Cammalleri in
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**You may be
feeling robbed**

Celebrity Buzz pg 37



Lovers' spat

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Moose **On the loose**

**Videographer
Robin Kuniski was
on the chase, and
you can see it at
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It's snooze time for a one-year-old moose calf that pranced around two city quadrants before being tranquilized at 9 Avenue and 9 Street SW. Officials say the moose will be relocated. **Story, page 4.**

Surgical facility for rent

Troubled provider leased building anticipating more operations

KATIE TURNER
for Metro Calgary



An official with a troubled private health-care provider confirmed a new multimillion-dollar facility was leased under the impression a surgical contract with Alberta Health Services was increasing.

The Health Resource Centre, a private facility contracted by AHS to perform hip, knee and ankle replacements at the former Grace Hospital, has been the subject of legal wrangling surrounding bankruptcy proceedings.

Network Health, which owns the HRC, entered into



A facility with six operating rooms and 72 beds seen here is now open for new suitors, according to the company that owns the building.

a 10-year agreement with Cambrian Group of Companies to lease a new medical building at Veterans Place NW in November 2009.

Frank King, a director with Network, said the new facility was sought on the

basis that AHS would be increasing the number of surgeries contracted.

"Of course we have copies of all our contracts," said King, who was unable to provide Metro with any copies.

Cambrian representative Serena Shane said the facility was originally constructed as an office space, then altered to suit the needs of the HRC.

"Network Health approached us back in 2008 and asked if we would be willing to modify the building so that it could be used for surgical facilities," said Shane.

"We wouldn't have made those changes just on a

whim. That cost roughly \$6.5 million in changes."

Some of these changes included widening elevators, hallways and staircases and changing the heating and air conditioning system.

Shane said the space is now open to other suitors. "It's available for rent. With us being able to terminate Network's lease, we can now look to mitigate the damages and try and find a new tenant."

Cambrian has no plans to alter the building and will rent it out as a surgical facility, Shane said.

Repeated calls to AHS for comment on the surgical contracts went unanswered by press time.

Bus pass rate hike for seniors proposed

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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TRANSIT Discounted bus passes should depend on income, not age, a city alderman says.

Ward 9 Ald. Joe Ceci proposed the idea as Calgary Transit considers the possibility of reducing some service because of a provincial funding shortfall of \$2.3 million.

"It's just an idea, but we could keep those on the low-income senior passes now the same, but in the future look at charging new seniors the adult fare price unless they are low-income," Ceci said.

Low-income seniors would then pay the current adult low-income price of about \$42.50 a month, he added.

"It's just about getting everyone in line. Some seniors had a good retirement and can afford to pay the monthly fees but right now are paying the discounted price."

Seniors currently pay \$35 a year for a transit pass and low-income seniors pay just \$15 a year. Ceci's idea would potentially see seniors that are not low-income pay the full cost.

Calgary Transit spokesperson Teresa Keddy said they have not looked into increasing senior fares.

"If anything was to change for senior passes, it would have to go to city council and we would follow their direction, but it's not something we have talked about," she said.

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Local



Harris to be celebrity judge

Bachelorette Jillian Harris is returning to her hometown in Peace River, Alta., as a celebrity guest for the Summer Games Idol Contest. Harris will be one of three judges who will determine the overall winner of the contest from July 19 to July 25.

METRO CALGARY

British Royal Air training in Calgary

AFGHANISTAN The British Royal Air will be training in the Tornado GR4 aircraft at Calgary International Airport from May 13 to 24 in advance of their deployment to Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

The training they complete in Calgary is a part of a larger training program that takes them across North America to ensure that the aircraft will support not only the British Army but all coalition forces in Afghanistan.

METRO CALGARY

Gun fired in pharmacy holdup

Suspects at large after duo stole OxyContin, other narcotics

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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One gunshot was fired Thursday morning during a pharmacy robbery in a trendy southwest neighbourhood.

Police say two men wearing disguises and one brandishing a handgun entered The Medicine Shoppe in Mission in the 2300 block of 4 Street SW around 8:30 a.m. forcing the pharmacist to flee the shop while the men stole OxyContin and other narcotics.

"One shot was fired while the clerk had already run outside but at this point we don't know if that was accidental or intentional," Insp. Luch Berti said.

Witness Dan Ta was delivering drugs to the store when two men wearing Toronto Blue Jays hats ran out of the pharmacy and confronted him.

"Two guys ran out and pointed a pistol in my face and they swore at me not to do anything and ran off. It was shocking; I am not



Dan Ta speaks to reporters Thursday after two masked men pointed a gun in his face after robbing a southwest pharmacy for OxyContin.

sure how I feel yet. I kind of froze up," Ta said outside the shop.

"It's not something that happens everyday but I guess there is a first time for everything."

Confused customers were shocked at the news though several waited a couple hours for the pharmacy to open up again.

Although the pharmacist stayed at work he was

too shaken up to talk to reporters.

The police canine unit was dispatched, but the suspects fled on foot. Police continue to look for the suspects.

Alleged mortgage fraud investigation underway

SCAM After sifting through thousands of Bank of Montreal documents, the RCMP and Calgary police have officially launched a criminal investigation into the alleged mortgage fraud.

The scam allegedly involved different groups buying lower-priced homes and selling them at inflated prices.

Sgt. Patrick Webb of the RCMP said the integrated criminal investigation will be lengthy and can't specify how long it will take.

"There is a very large amount of documentation to examine and hundreds of interviews to conduct," Webb said.

"Basically, we reviewed the information and documents the Bank of Montreal gave to us and now investigators will gather and collect evidence to decide what charges will be laid, if any."

Calgary northeast Tory MP Devinder Shory is alleged by BMO to have been part of the alleged \$75 million mortgage fraud.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Alderman wary about too many parkades

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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DOWNTOWN While the city may open about 8,000 new parking spots downtown over the next three years, a Calgary alderman says it's important to create a healthy balance.

The city is looking at 8,109 permits being issued

— 7,850 in parkades and 259 on the street and at surface lots — all being built by the private sector.



Ward 8 Ald. John Mar said news that more parkades are on the way for the city's

core through the private sector is both good and bad.

"It's a double-edged sword. It's good to have the spots but we have to be careful not to get too congested," Mar said.

"We need to maintain the atmosphere and vitality of offices and retail spaces with the parking, too. We need to have a balance."

The Calgary Downtown Association likes new long-term parking, but hopes the city creates more short-term parking and cheaper parking.

"We're really supportive of more parking but for us we would like to see it translate to lower costs for parking as a whole," executive director Maggie Schofield said.

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What's online today.

Video Tory MP James Moore 'proudly' rocks Le Bleu Blanc et Rouge on Parliament Hill after losing playoffs bet at metronews.ca/canada

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A woman was transported to hospital with minor facial burns after she tried to extinguish a stove fire, according to the fire department. Roughly \$3,000 in damage was done to the home. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Wild moose chase downtown

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

This loose moose was no comedy act.

A one-year-old moose captured the attention of Calgarians and snarled traffic in the process, as the young calf led officials on a two-hour wild moose chase throughout Calgary and across two city quadrants.

Eventually the moose was tranquilized by Fish and Wildlife officers after dashing down 9th Avenue SW downtown against traffic, according to officer Ken Mackay.

"It's a safety issue for traffic and citizens, so we tranquilized it and we'll be taking it west," he said, adding the animal would be tagged and released.

There were reports the moose started in the northwest but led officials down Memorial Drive near the zoo and then crossed Bow River onto an island before wading through more water to explore downtown.



Fish and Wildlife and police officers load a tranquilized one-year-old moose onto a truck after a two-hour pursuit of the animal in downtown Calgary Thursday.

"It's never a good thing to have a moose loose downtown. Not a good place to be," Mackay said.

Duty Insp. Darren Cave said the moose created a lot of chaos for motorists.

"He was kind of like a tourist, he's seen a lot of the city today," Cave said.

Witnesses, many of whom had never seen a moose downtown before, were awestruck when

crossing paths with the large animal along the river.

"It just kind of looked a bit frazzled but it's not something you see everyday," Joe Weinstein said.

Agencies to help homeless

SUPPORT Calgary's homeless or citizens at risk of becoming homeless will have the opportunity to get services and support this weekend.

The ninth annual Project Homeless Connect event will serve around 700 homeless people at Suncor Energy Centre Saturday at 8 a.m. and get them help from 40 different agencies along with providing breakfast and hot lunch.

The event is staffed mostly by volunteers, who come away with overwhelmingly positive feedback, said Kathleen Polyak with the Calgary Homeless Foundation who are host-

Available services

- Medical treatment
- Mental health services
- Income support
- Employment counselling
- Identification documents
- Access to housing
- Haircuts

ing the event.

"They get a greater understanding of the issues Calgary's homeless have to deal with," said Polyak.

The event has, in the past, even helped reunite families after meeting through some of the services.

PETER MCCARTNEY/
FOR METRO CALGARY

News in brief

DEATH RCMP are investigating after a man died while in police custody. Members of the Vulcan RCMP detachment arrested an intoxicated man who had been admitted to the Vulcan hospital and was reportedly acting abusive towards hospital staff. The 47-year-old Strathmore man came under "medical distress" after being taken to the Gleichen detach-

ment and later died, according to Sgt. Patrick Webb. "Every one of those (present) will be interviewed as to what they saw, what they observed, what they knew, all aspects," said Webb. The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, an independent investigative body, was notified of the death but chose not to respond.

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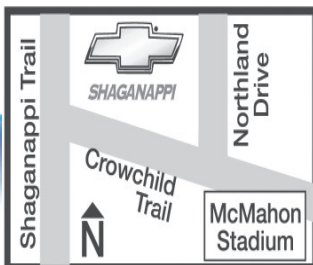
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SHAGANAPPI

The provincial government announced an \$800,000 injection for Edmonton's Indy Race on Thursday. Culture minister Lindsay Blackett said \$300,000 will come from the ministry and another \$500,000 from Travel Alberta. **METRO CALGARY**

Farm explosion probe continues

TRAINING EXERCISE Alberta investigators have ruled out methane and natural gas as the cause of an explosion of a farmhouse during a firefighters' training exercise.

Wainwright fire Chief Steve Douglas said soil samples have been taken from the blast site near Edgerton and sent to a lab for testing.

Six volunteer firefighters were doing a controlled burn on an abandoned farmhouse Monday night when the building exploded, leaving a huge crater.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

MUSIC The Ogden Legion Pipe band will host its annual Indoor Competition on May 15 at Bowness High School. This year's event is sanctioned by the Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers and will consist of 60 solo competitors and six pipe bands from throughout Alberta. Solo events will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and band events from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

METRO CALGARY

After getting an \$11.5M facelift, Memorial Park ready to reopen

KATIE TURNER
for Metro Calgary

The city's oldest park will reopen for business Friday after undergoing an \$11.5-million facelift.

Originally built in 1912, downtown's Central Memorial Park has been undergoing improvements for the past two years, explained a member of the city's parks department.

Michelle Reid, a conservation landscape architect with the city, said that the new park was built with two priorities in mind.

"One to retain and celebrate the historical significance of the park ... we also recognized that it was very important that this park remains vital for the citizens of today, that it's not a museum piece stuck in the past," she said.

Reid explained that redevelopment of the park was heavily influenced by Calgarians who suggested the addition of more water fea-



Central Memorial Park, seen here in its original form, left, and the new park, right, underwent an \$11.5-million renovation, and will be officially re-opened Friday.

tures.

In addition to three fountains, Reid said the city has added public washrooms, a permanent office for the parks department and a café building, which is set to open sometime this summer.

Ald. John Mar is pleased with the rejuvenated park.

"It clearly demonstrates the City of Calgary's ongoing commitment for recreation spaces," he said. "This is history in the making."

The official reopening of

the park will take place at 5 p.m. Friday with a speech by Mayor Bronconnier.

Prior to the reopening, at 4:30 p.m., Princess Margriet of the Netherlands will be laying a wreath in acknowledgement of the Canadian military.

Province issues warning about real-estate scheme

PETER MCCARTNEY
for Metro Calgary

SUSPICIOUS Calgarians are being warned not to let real estate investors take advantage of them after handwritten letters offering to buy one's house started showing up in people's mail.

The notes are not always in the same handwriting, but the message always reads "my (spouse) and I would like to \$buy\$ your house at (address)."

"There's nothing illegal about this, but the thing that tipped us off is a six-month closing date," said Service Minister Heather Klimchuk.

She said it's possible people are looking to buy homes at below market value and then resell them once the market rebounds, and there is concern the buyers could break the contract if it doesn't.

Klimchuk said if someone receives one of these letters, "they should get advice by people in the business, just don't make a hasty decision."

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Was a five-year-old disabled boy bullied on a school bus? His father says yes. But the Prairie South School Division in Saskatchewan says it has "a number of facts that differ greatly from the account provided publicly." It says it can't say more for privacy reasons. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Boxer's charges dropped

Assault and mischief charges have been dropped against former Olympic boxing silver medalist Shawn O'Sullivan, 47, pictured showing injuries he says he received after being assaulted by police. O'Sullivan complained he was Tasered and arrested by police in Belleville, Ont., who countered he was drunk and combative.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Store boss charged in death

CRIME A corner-store owner has been charged with killing a shoplifter over what the victim's friend said was a can of luncheon meat.

Kwang Soo Kim, 62, has been charged with manslaughter in the death of Geraldine Beady, 29, in Winnipeg. Beady was hit with a weapon, police said. She made her way to a friend's house and died five days later in hospital. "He was hoping he wasn't going to be charged," said Kim's lawyer, Evan Roitenberg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FALLEN News reports say another Canadian soldier has been killed by an improvised explosive device in southern Afghanistan. Private Kevin McKay, of the Edmonton-based Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, reportedly died in an IED blast near the town of Nakhonay, near Kandahar. The reports did not list his hometown. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Abortion furor on PM's doorstep

Students, priests, nuns join giant Parliament Hill rally

Thousands of pro-life campaigners flooded Parliament Hill Thursday, daring to hope that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government will take further steps against abortion at home as well as abroad.

The throng included hundreds of students drawn from Ottawa's Roman Catholic high schools. Many waved graphic signs with pictures of aborted fetuses.

Priests, ministers, nuns and monks were scattered through the crowd, which was estimated at about 15,000 people.

The theme of this year's March for Life was: Abortion is a crime against humanity.

But politics was also at the fore as the abortion debate arrived literally on Harper's doorstep.

He sparked an outcry when he said money earmarked for child and maternal health programs in the Third World won't

go to abortions.

That won praise from Marc Cardinal Ouellet, archbishop of Quebec and primate of Canada.

"We support this stance of the government not to finance abortion in countries of the Third World," he said.

The Quebec prelate also told reporters: "Reopen the discussion in Canada about this judicial void. There is absolutely no protection for the unborn."

Angelina Steenstra of a group called Silent No More echoed Ouellet's statement:

"I am pleased to see the prime minister of Canada using the resources of Canada to promote women's health by offering real concrete things to women to bring about life and to support life and to encourage life."

Twenty-one members of Parliament, 18 of them Conservatives, addressed the crowd.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"There is absolutely no protection for the unborn."

Marc Cardinal Ouellet



Thousands of anti-abortion activists march through Ottawa Thursday for the March for Life.

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Guergis asks: Was it all just a misunderstanding?

SCANDAL Helena Guergis says a misunderstanding must be the reason why Prime Minister Stephen Harper kicked her out of the Conservative caucus.

But she conceded Thursday her husband, Rahim Jaffer, might well have used her parliamentary email address for business purposes.

Guergis underlined private eye Derrick Snowdy's comments that he didn't have any evidence of criminal behaviour on her part.

"There obviously has been some misunderstanding," she said.

Snowdy told MPs at a Commons committee Wednesday that when he

went to the Conservatives, he was only worried about the optics of Guergis and Jaffer associating with a Toronto businessman facing fraud charges.

He also testified that on the same day Harper announced Guergis' removal from caucus, he argued with senior Conservatives over their interpretation of the information he had brought to them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nervous? Following spending scandals at home and abroad, some MPs keep expenses secret.

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Reality TV contestant pleads guilty, sentenced to nine years
A crab boat deckhand who appeared on the Deadliest Catch reality show has pleaded guilty to three Oregon bank robbery charges and sentenced to nine years in prison. The shackled Joshua Tell Warner, 23, apologized to tellers who attended the hearing Wednesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Teen sailor approaches finish line

After seven months at sea, an Australian teen on Thursday was just two days away from reaching the finish line in her bid to become the youngest person to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around the world. Thousands are expected to line Sydney Harbour Saturday to offer a hero's welcome to Jessica Watson, 16, who has battled 12-metre waves, multiple knockdowns and critics who called her too immature and inexperienced for the treacherous journey. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Thai rebel leader shot

Violence breaks out after general takes bullet in head

A rogue army general working with anti-government protesters was shot in the head Thursday while talking to reporters in downtown Bangkok, triggering more clashes that left one demonstrator dead and worsening Thailand's political chaos.

Gunfire crackled well into the night after the government declared it will blockade 10,000 Red Shirt demonstrators who have occupied and paralyzed the centre of the capital for two months.

The streets turned into a virtual war zone following the shooting of Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdiphol. Protesters stopped police trucks and forced them to turn back; they hurled rocks at soldiers, who responded by firing live am-

Condition

- A hospital said Maj. Khattiya Sawasdiphol was shot in the head and admitted to a hospital's intensive care unit.

munition, said Associated Press cameraman Raul Galleo. Killed in the shooting was Chartchai Bualao, 25, who was hit in the eye, according to the government's medical emergency centre. Soldiers resumed firing after an ambulance took his body away. At least seven other people were injured.

Khattiya was shot in the head while talking to a New York Times journalist near the Silom subway station on the edge of the occupation zone. The station

entrance is surrounded by tall office buildings, leading to suspicions a sniper fired the shot.

Times reporter Thomas Fuller, answering questions on the newspaper's website, said he was about a half-hour into the interview when he asked the general, "Do you think the military is going to launch a crackdown, and do you think they'll be able to penetrate the barricades here?"

"And there was a bang as he was answering it, and I think his last words that I heard were, 'The military cannot get in here.' And then immediately (he) just fell," Fuller said.

Moments later, others dragged Khattiya by the legs, his head sliding on the ground and leaving a trail of blood. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Buffalo Obama drops in



Alexander Whitbeck, 7, left, and his father Scott stand along a street in Buffalo Thursday, where U.S. President Barack Obama stopped by. The president made a surprise stop to dine on the local delicacy at Duff's Famous Wings.

News in brief

INDIANA A 32-year-old man who prosecutors say videotaped himself and his girlfriend molesting children as young as two months was

sentenced Thursday to 125 years in prison. Stephen Quick II was convicted in March of three counts of child molesting. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pope: Abortion is 'insidious'

PORTUGAL Pope Benedict XVI has called abortion and same-sex marriage two of the most "insidious and dangerous" threats facing the world today.

Benedict made the comments Thursday to Catholic educators, social workers and others after celebrating Mass before an estimated 400,000 people in Fatima, Portugal, one of the most important shrines in Christianity. He was interrupted by applause several times. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

With Gordon Brown gone, a potentially bitter battle to replace him becomes a family affair

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11am - 12pm Networking & Exhibits · 12pm - 1pm Panel presentation & Lunch · 1pm - 1:30pm Q&A

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Man dies at giant cocktail party

Police say a reveller died in an accident at a giant cocktail party in the French city of Nantes that drew 9,500 people after it was organized on Facebook. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Poppy blight could drop opium yield

Afghanistan's opium yield is likely to drop as much as 30 per cent this year because blight is destroying fields full of poppies in the south — driving up prices amid a countrywide push to grow legal crops, a UN official said Thursday.

Higher prices also could mean more money pouring in to the Taliban, which funds much of its insurgency with profits from the drug. Afghanistan supplies 90 per cent of the world's opium, the main ingredient in heroin.

The blight, which turns the poppy plants black as they apparently rot from the inside, has hit about

Similar to '01

- Prices spiked similarly from 2001 to 2003, peaking at just more than \$300 a kilogram and sparking a surge in opium poppy cultivation over the next few years. That followed the former Taliban regime's virtual eradication of opium during its last year in power in 2001.

half of the poppy crop growing in the northern part of Helmand province — the centre of Afghanistan's poppy production, said Jean-Luc Lemahieu, the top official

for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Afghanistan. It is also significantly affecting crops in southern Helmand and in neighbouring Kandahar province, he said.

The lower yield on the surface seems to be a boost to reducing opium poppy cultivation, but it is leading to wild price speculation that instead could encourage farmers to plant more poppy next year.

The price of fresh opium has jumped 57 per cent from last year to about \$85 US a kilogram in April, while dry opium prices are up 37 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

NEW YORK U.S. President Barack Obama is in hot water in New York City, the iconic American metropolis still traumatized by the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and jittery following a car-bombing attempt in Times Square two weeks ago. New York

lawmakers say the Department of Homeland Security is planning to cut anti-terrorism funding to public transit and ports in the city by 27 per cent. That claim is based on a department briefing earlier this week that detailed across-the-board federal

funding cuts in those areas to \$144 million US from nearly \$200 million. The White House disputed Thursday it was cutting funding to New York, saying overall anti-terror funding to the city grew this year.

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Comment

Marathon of waiting

Why are people running — and where are they going?

In Defence Of

Mike Morrison

You were out of luck if you happened to be driving around downtown Calgary on Mother's Day. It seemed like every second street was closed for yet another road race.

Even main arteries like Macleod Trail were shut down to accommodate the runners, many wearing those awkwardly short shorts while sporting 12 or more mini-water bottles.

After spending most of my morning stuck in my car behind one barricade or another, I began to feel

like I was in the world's slowest moving parade.

Has anyone else noticed there seems to be a marathon almost every weekend trying to raise money for something?

Thanks to organizers who are using the word "marathon" very loosely, I don't think you have to actually run them anymore.

Many participants are jogging or even walking the once formidable 10-, 21.1- or 42-kilometre course. This ensures more participants, which in turn causes more and more road closures. (Special note to marathon runners: If you do it every weekend, it really isn't that impressive.) Not to seem ungrateful,

but doesn't our city have hundreds of kilometres of urban pathways? Would it be silly to assume that we should maybe use them instead? And what about running

through the Plus 15? Watching thousands of people trying to squeeze themselves through that maze would be something I would happily donate money to watch.

My frustrations with Calgary's never-ending stream of marathons aren't just to do with the traffic headaches. Who can even keep track of all the different types of races?

If every time my doorbell rang it was to buy cookies or chocolate bars, that

would be one thing, but to donate money to yet another racer? Unless they are on a unicycle, I honestly can't tell them apart. And if I donate to one, I feel like I have to donate to them all. Unfortunately, my bank account doesn't allow for such generosity.

I'm already starting to feel guilty about knowing that everyone else is getting up early on their weekends and running all over the city. Can't I just sleep in until 11 a.m. and eat my chips in bed in peace?

With that said, these charitable activities did give me an idea: Anyone want to give me money to float 10 kilometres down the Elbow River? (With a life-jacket, of course.)

Mike Morrison writes daily about all things Canadian entertainment on the award-winning Mike's Bloggity Blog.

"My frustrations with Calgary's never-ending stream of marathons aren't just to do with the traffic headaches."

Worth mentioning

U.S. backs Obama's spill response: Poll

The Gulf of Mexico oil spill hasn't stained U.S. President Barack Obama nor dimmed the public's desire for offshore energy drilling, according to a new Associated Press-GfK Poll.

While some conservative pundits have called this "Obama's Katrina," that's not how the public feels, the poll found. BP PLC, which owned the well that has gushed more than 15 million litres and counting after an April 20 oil rig explosion, is getting more of the public's ire.

More people surveyed said they approved of Obama's handling of the ongoing oil spill than disapproved, but not by large margins or with unusually strong feelings. It contrasts with the public's reaction to former president George W. Bush's response to another Gulf disaster, 2005's

hurricane Katrina.

The poll found 42 per cent approve of Obama's actions, 33 per cent disapprove and 21 per cent say they have neutral feelings about his response.

The reaction is strongly along partisan lines. Democrats lean toward favouring Obama's actions, 58 per cent to 19 per cent, with 17 per cent expressing neither approval nor disapproval. By 47 per cent to 27 per cent, Republicans disapprove of Obama's reaction, with 23 per cent saying neither. Independents are about evenly split between approval and disapproval.

Barack Obama

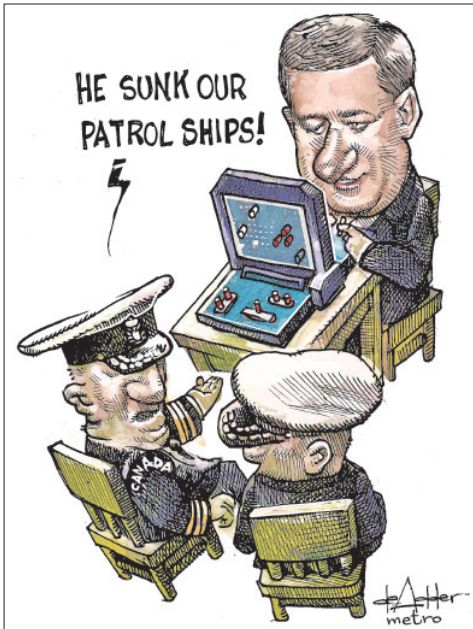
For Bush after Katrina, the public was harsher in its assessment. An AP-Ipsos poll in mid-September 2005 showed Bush's approval rating was somewhat lower in the weeks following the Katrina disaster than Obama's rating for handling the current crisis. Back then, 35 per cent approved of Bush's handling of the disaster and 42 per cent disapproved, with 25 per cent not expressing either approval nor disapproval. The poll

also found the public still supports the idea of drilling offshore for oil and gas. By 50 per cent to 38 per cent, more people favour increased coastal drilling for oil and gas than oppose it.

While Republicans favour it by a 3-to-1 margin, Democrats lean toward opposing it, 52 per cent to 36 per cent. Independents are about evenly split. Groups giving drilling the strongest support include men, middle-aged and older people, whites and residents of rural and suburban areas.

The country is split about evenly over which priority is more important in considering drilling, with 49 per cent choosing the need for the U.S. to provide its own energy and 47 per cent picking protection of the environment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Noteworthy

Early birds may have had to walk for worms: Study

The early bird — didn't fly very well.

Recent fossil discoveries that showed feathers on some of the early flying animals, like the well-known Archaeopteryx, created a bit of a flap in the archaeological world.

And now comes a report that those feathers may have been too weak for use in flapping flight — helpful only for gliding.

Robert L. Nudds and Gareth J. Dyke report in Friday's edition of the journal Science that the central shaft of feathers on Archaeopteryx and Confuciusornis were much more slender than on feathers of

similar-sized birds today.

Archaeopteryx flourished about 145 million years ago and Confuciusornis came along later, about 120 million years ago.

Unfortunately, researchers cannot tell from the fossils if the feather shafts were hollow, like modern birds, or were solid.

If their feathers were hollow the thin shafts would have buckled like a drinking straw if the animals had tried vigorous flapping, according to Nudds, of England's University of Manchester, and Dyke, of University College, Dublin, Ireland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote of the Day

"I've been following this issue for years and we think there should be a law that precludes (governments) from overspending their budget ... except for a national disaster or war."

— KEVIN GAUDET, THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE CANADIAN TAXPAYERS FEDERATION, AFTER A NEW STUDY BY THE C.D. HOWE INSTITUTE SHOWS CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS OVERSPENT THEIR BUDGETS BY A MASSIVE \$65 BILLION OVER THE LAST DECADE, A TRANSGRESSION THAT HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT THEM IN THIS NEW ERA OF HIGH DEFICITS. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tim Hortons Inc. has served up a fatter profit for its investors and says it will roll out a new distribution centre in eastern Ontario by next year. The company says it had \$78.9 million in profit in the first three months of this year — up 18.7 per cent from last year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

RIM may be working on tablet

TECH Research In Motion is reportedly working on a tablet device to compete with Apple's iPad.

A tablet device would be a major departure for the Waterloo-based company, which thus far has made only handheld devices such as its BlackBerry line of smartphones.

But RIM can't afford to ig-

nore the popularity of the iPad and the fact other competitors are expected to bring out their own tablet devices, said Ashok Kumar, a technology analyst who has commented on the Waterloo-based company's efforts to come out with a tablet.

"RIM can't afford not to participate in that," he said

in an interview.

A RIM spokesperson declined to comment on the tablet rumours. Kumar said he bases his evidence on discussions with RIM suppliers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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New rules for telecoms

Foreign ownership no threat, says Clement

The Harper government is committed to preserving Canadian content on television and radio while allowing for a greater foreign presence in the telecommunications sector, Industry Minister Tony Clement says.

The minister told a House committee yesterday it is possible to separate the two.

"I'm not saying it's easy, but it certainly isn't impossible," he said.

Ottawa signalled in the throne speech in March that it wants to increase competition



Tony Clement

in the telecommunications sector, such as wireless services, by opening it to more foreign investment.

Some critics have said that since companies like Rogers Communications provide both content and distribution of content, the two functions cannot have separate rules.

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India Microsoft Office 2010



Microsoft India executives Sanjay Manchanda, right, Tarun Gulati, left, and Chairman of Microsoft India Ravi Venkatesan look on yesterday during the launch of Microsoft Office 2010 in New Delhi, India. Microsoft India announced the availability of Office 2010, SharePoint 2010, Visio 2010 and Project 2010 for business customers in India and across the world.

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Limewire loses legal challenge

ONLINE File-sharing software company LimeWire has lost a long-running court battle to the major recording companies.

A judge with the U.S. District Court in New York ruled this week that the company and its chairman, Mark Gorton, were liable for inducing copyright infringement. The decision doesn't mean the site will shut down right away. The

record labels and LimeWire are to meet with Judge Kimba Wood on June 1 to determine the next steps.

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HSBC Bank Canada reported first quarter net income of \$84 million, or 17 cents per share. That's little changed compared with the \$85 million, or 17 cents per share, reported in the year-ago period. However, it represented a drop of \$64 million from its net earnings for the fourth quarter of 2009. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business in brief

ALCOHOL Corby Distilleries Ltd. says consumers remain cautious about their spending. The liquor and wine distributor's third-quarter revenue de-

clined six per cent from a year earlier to \$29.3 million. Its net income fell 12 per cent to \$4.5 million or 16 cents per share.

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Nancy Southern, president and CEO of ATCO, smiles as she meets shareholders prior to the company's annual meeting Thursday in Calgary.

China buys into oilsands project

ENERGY China is making yet another push into Alberta's oilsands, taking on a five per cent stake in Penn West Energy Trust and inking a joint-venture to develop some of the Canadian oil heavy-weight's land.

China Investment Corp. will take on \$435 million worth, or five per cent, of Penn West stock and is investing \$817 million in the

new joint venture, while Penn West is kicking in assets in the Peace River area of northern Alberta worth about \$1.8 billion.

In a statement Thursday, Calgary-based Penn West said it will hold a 55 per cent interest in the joint-venture and will operate the project, which includes 237,000 acres of oil-sands leases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3-D Avatar and Alice boost Cineplex revenue

ENTERTAINMENT Cineplex Galaxy Income Fund says its first-quarter profit nearly tripled as more spectators bought premium-priced tickets for 3-D movies and spent more at concession stands.

The operator of Canada's

largest theatre chain earned \$9.5 million in the first three months of the year, up from \$3.7 million a year earlier. Overall revenue was \$257.2 million, an increase from \$211 million in the first quarter of 2009.

The president and CEO

of Cineplex, Ellis Jacob, said Avatar and Alice in Wonderland dominated the box office during the quarter and the two 3-D films contributed more than one-third of all ticket revenue. Both films carried a higher ticket price for

their 3-D versions, and an even higher one on Imax screens, which boosted each ticket sale by \$3 to \$5. "Our box office revenue this quarter was the highest in the history of the fund," Jacob said in a release.

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Parker won't play for France

Tony Parker won't play at the world championship for France this summer, staying instead with his San Antonio Spurs. The point guard said Thursday on his website that the Spurs made it clear he should "only focus on the club." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

17

Sports



Royals flush manager

Trey Hillman, left, became the first manager to get fired this season when the Kansas City Royals let him go Thursday after a final win. Former Milwaukee manager Ned Yost, who had joined the Royals' front office in January, immediately took over the team. The Royals made the move after beating Cleveland 6-4, a win that left Kansas City at 12-23 and last in the AL Central.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Stamps sign 1st round pick Maver

CFL The Calgary Stampeders have signed kicker Rob Maver, the club's first-round draft pick in this year's Canadian college draft.

The Stamps drafted the University of Guelph product with the fifth overall pick May 2. Calgary needed reinforcement at the kicker position after longtime Stampeder Sandro D'Angelis signed with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats during the off-season.

"The fact we selected Rob with a first-round pick speaks to how highly we regard his ability and potential," Stampeders head coach and GM John Hufnagel said Thursday. "He'll come to camp, compete for a job and we'll see what happens from there, but we're very excited to welcome him into the fold."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Richard, Lafleur ... Cammalleri?

Former Calgary Flame is now matching Canadiens greats

Michael Cammalleri is not just scoring goals for the Montreal Canadiens, he is matching the feats of some of the 24-time Stanley Cup champions greatest stars.

With seven goals in a seven-game series victory over the defending Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins, Cammalleri equalled a team record for tallies in a single playoff series shared by Maurice (Rocket) Richard (1944 and 1958), Jean Beliveau (1956), Bernard (Boom Boom) Geoffrion (1957), Guy Lafleur (1975) and Marcel Bonin (1959) — all of them but Bonin long established members of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

How's that for company? And Cammalleri, who

signed as a free agent from the Calgary Flames last summer, has a shot at making more history when the Canadiens move into the conference final for the first time since 1993, the year of their last Stanley Cup conquest.

When the Toronto native said after the

Canadiens eliminated Pittsburgh with a 5-2 win Wednesday night that

"there's something pretty special going on here," he was talking about the team. It was left to others to say the same about him.

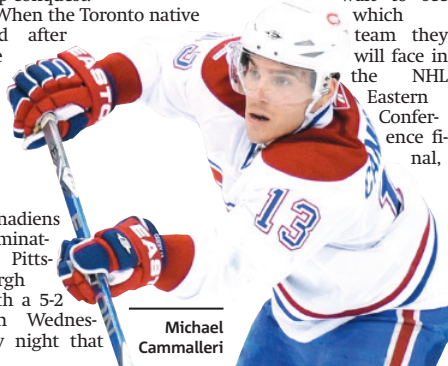
The Canadiens had a day off from the rink and the media Thursday as they wait to see which team they will face in the NHL Eastern Conference final,

which will be decided Friday night in a Game 7 showdown between the Boston Bruins and the Philadelphia Flyers.

Once it starts with Game 1 Sunday (CBC, 5 p.m.), more team records will be in danger.

Cammalleri had two game-winning goals against Pittsburgh and one in the first round against Washington, leaving him one short of a team record shared by Richard (1958), Beliveau (1965) Lafleur (1975) and Claude Lemieux (1986).

The 27-year-old, whose previous playoff experience was one round with Calgary last spring, has 12 goals in 13 playoff games this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Cammalleri

Sports in brief

TENNIS Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal reached the quarter-finals of the Madrid Masters on Thursday with straight set victories. Federer beat Swiss countryman Stanislas Wawrinka and Nadal saw off big-serving John Isner of the United States.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL PLAYOFFS

FRIDAY GAME

Philadelphia at Boston, 5 p.m. (Series tied 3-3)

NBA PLAYOFFS

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 94 Cleveland 85 (Boston wins series 4-2)

HOCKEY

WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Russia 3 Belarus 1
Norway 5 France 1
Slovakia 5 Kazakhstan 1
Czech Republic 2 Sweden 1

BASEBALL

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS

Baltimore 6 Seattle 5
Detroit 6 N.Y. Yankees 0
Kansas City 6 Cleveland 4
Texas 2 Oakland 1 (12 innings)

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS

Houston 4 St. Louis 1
San Diego 1 San Francisco 0
Florida 2 N.Y. Mets 1
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Serena and Venus Williams are going to be back at the top of the rankings together for the first time in seven years. The WTA Tour says Venus Williams is assured of moving up to No. 2 Monday, one spot behind younger sister Serena. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Canadiens rewarding their faithful fans

Field of Play

Scott Russell

metronews.ca/fieldofplay

Sometimes, it's easy to lose touch. The chase for Lord Stanley's mug rages on, but you're consumed with soccer's impending World Cup and all the information you have to cram into your brain before kickoff.

Then, something grabs you by the throat and brings you back.

"Les Bleu, Blanc, Rouge sont là!"

It's Kelvin, the Jamaican-born security guard at the office who reminds you that the Montreal Canadiens are still in it — still

headed toward another improbable date with destiny.

"Have a little faith, man," chuckles Kelvin. "I grew up in Brossard on the South Shore. I love those guys."

What's not to love?

In an age where players change stripes frequently and where cities become

franchises in the marketplace of sport — the Habs still inspire passion, loyalty, sometimes hatred and most importantly ... attention.

They are hockey's old faithful.

Game 7 in Pittsburgh and Hockey Night in Canada's theme surrounds the reli-

gious overtones the Canadiens inspire in their followers. There's a shot of the greatest French Canadian never to play for Montreal, Mario Lemieux, who now owns the Penguins. When the Habs take to the ice at the Igloo, Lemieux smiles broadly with delight.

There's also the incredible scene at the far-off home of the Habs: The Bell Centre jammed to the rafters — 21,000 strong — watching the game on TV. Then a late third-period call comes from Harold, your old friend from Montreal days.

"I can't believe they're going to win this," he blurts before saying hello. "I have to go now," and hangs up.

With every Canadiens' win this post-season, the magic grows. They are luring us onto their team and making our hockey connection even stronger.

"I'm in a bit of a dream world right now," Kelvin giggles the morning after the win.

"I wanted to believe in them and now I do."

The Canadiens have once again become the nation's touchstone.

Sometimes, you just have to go along for the ride and have faith in old faithful.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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Celtics end Cavs' run

(Boston wins series 4-2)

Cavaliers 85 Celtics 94



The Boston Celtics advanced to the Eastern Conference finals with a 94-85 victory over Cleveland in Game 6 on Thursday night, sending LeBron James and the Cavaliers into an early off-season destined to define the future of the franchise — and the rest of the NBA, too.

The LeBron watch began at 10:53 p.m., when Rajon Rondo dribbled out the last 14 seconds and the Celtics began celebrating. James is eligible to opt out of his contract this summer, a move that would make the two-time MVP — and zero-time NBA champion — a free agent and set off a scramble for his services from New York to Miami to Los Angeles and, of course, back in Cleveland. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Weekend, May 14-16, 2010

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Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

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Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Love she wrote

Pg 23



Amanda Seyfried stars in *Letters to Juliet*, a film that is as sensuously beautiful as it is emotionally predictable.

Movies

Pg 22



Robin Hood aims high, but Crowe misses the bull's eye.

Music

Pg 28



Toronto electronic band Holy F—k is back with *Latin*.

Television

Pg 30



J.J. Abrams is all for *Lost* ending on its own terms.

Style

Pg 34



Sex and the City fashion is back and shinier than ever.

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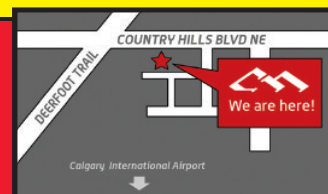
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Weekend, May 14-16, 2010

22 movies&entertainment

At a glance

Robin Hood ●●●, Letters To Juliet ●●●½, The Trotsky ●●●½, Just Wright ●½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Robin Hood misses mark

Robin Hood

Director: Ridley Scott

Stars: Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●

STEVE GOW

for Metro Canada

There's a fundamental flaw in trying to fabricate the origin of a folk hero whose legend has been repeated in various forms since medieval times — it's simply unnecessary.

Oh, it's an interesting idea of course. But the lore of Robin Hood is so ingrained in minds that trying to produce a story that essentially imagines how he became who he became

On the web

For trailers, screen times, photos — and to buy movie tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

is remarkably redundant.

Filmmaker Ridley Scott teams up with Russell Crowe for the fifth time to reawaken this character but beyond a few flashy action sequences which (in the wake of every medieval fantasy produced since Lord of the Rings) may be impressive but are far from mind-blowing.

Still, this convoluted adaptation shows how a skilled archer in Richard the Lionheart's 12th century crusades ended up bearing news of the King's death to the Royal Court



Russell Crowe shakes up medieval England with his turn as Robin Hood.

and assumed the identity of a Nottingham soldier. As such, Robin rallies his fellow countrymen to confront French armies that plan to invade England at the influence of a royal turncoat.

Got that? If not, don't worry; this movie eagerly meshes too many storylines to form the beginnings of the Robin Hood audiences know and love and will, presumably, fill theatres to see anyhow. As such, the

film's tactical approach struggles to develop a beating heart.

At least Crowe and Cate Blanchett (as a damsel never quite in distress) have the Oscar-winning acting chops to breathe life into this

blockbuster blueprint. In the end however, this Robin Hood may not "rob from the rich and give to the poor," but after emptying your wallet at the box office, you may just wish it did.

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— Greg Russell, MOVIE SHOW PLUS



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"Truly romantic and honestly funny!" — Stephen Schaefer, BOSTON HERALD

"★★★★★. A lovely and irresistible tale of true love... It's altogether wonderful." — Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW

"A romantic, enchanting and beautiful love story. 'Letters' is the perfect date movie." — Maria Salas, TERRA TV

LETTERS TO JULIET

SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS AN APPLEHEAD PICTURES PRODUCTION A MARK CANTON PRODUCTION A FILM BY GARY WINICK "LETTERS TO JULIET" AMANDA SEYFRIED CHRISTOPHER EGAN GAIL GARCIA BERNAL AND VANESSA REDGRAVE FRANCO NERO MUSIC BY ANDREA GUERRA PRODUCED BY CAROLINE KAPLAN ELLEN BARKIN MARK CANTON WRITTEN BY JOSE RIVERA AND TIM SULLIVAN DIRECTED BY GARY WINICK LettersToJuliet-Movie.com



STARTS TODAY CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES

British Awakening

Rebecca Hall, Dominic West and Imelda Staunton have joined the cast of the proudly British thriller *The Awakening*. Regular TV director Nick Murphy is behind the camera for this one, a tale of ghosts and mystery set in 1920s England. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Love's Letters lost

Letters to Juliet

Director: Gary Winick
Stars: Amanda Seyfried,
 Vanessa Redgrave
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●

ANNE BRODIE
 for Metro Canada

Amanda Seyfried's everywhere these days. From *Big Love* to a slew of recent films, the doe-eyed blond, who is as ubiquitous as she is unconventionally beautiful, has tackled a range of roles.

Letters to Juliet's Sophie is worlds away from the titular character in *Chloe* or as Needy in *Jennifer's Body*. Even if her choices seem odd, there's no denying the girl is skilled.

And talk about being in the moment. Seyfried starred as Liam Neeson's prostitute/lover in *Chloe* and in *Letter to Juliet* she plays muse to Neeson's mother-in-law Vanessa Redgrave, the mother of his late wife, Natasha.

As for Redgrave, her presence elevates any film. She is the heart and soul of Letters, able to convey meaning with the slightest gesture.

Redgrave has nobility and strength of character, and gives this sweet confec-



Vanessa Redgrave, left, and Amanda Seyfried star in *Letters to Juliet*.

tion refinement and a degree of believability it needs.

Seyfried's aspiring writer/fact checker Sophie is taking a pre-honeymoon trip to Verona in Italy with her irritating chef fiancé Victor (Gael García Bernal), who will be too busy to pay attention to her after the wedding.

Sophie finds Giulietta's "balcony" in Verona that advertises itself as Romeo and Juliet's courtyard. Weeping girls from all over the world post their romantic sob stories on the walls, hoping Giulietta will reply

with cheering advice. In fact, Giulietta's "secretaries" reply in her voice.

Sophie infiltrates the secretarial pool and answers a letter left by lovelorn Claire, an English teenager, in 1957. Claire (Redgrave) arrives in Verona in hopes of being somehow mystically reunited with her local lost lover through Sophie. Her handsome but snooty grandson Charlie (Chris Egan) is there to hand out reality checks.

Against all common sense, the trio embark on a cross-country search for a lost lover.

The film is straight-up eye candy, shot in Tuscany with its gorgeous tapestry of sensuality, and golden light, food, and wine.

But the premise is beyond belief. A few clunky lines that don't belong break the intended spell with a thud.

There are resonant moments of emotional awakening and tributes to lost loves that bring a tear to the eye, but predictability kills the dramatic tension.

For a trailer of *Letters to Juliet*, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

He fought the law and studios won

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Robin Hood comes in all shapes and sizes. According to the International Association for Robin Hood Studies (yes, there is such a thing), the 700-year-old hero of Sherwood Forest has been the subject of one of the earliest Legoland building systems, the inspiration for the DC Comics superhero Green Arrow and a flour company spokesman.

On film the notorious archer and outlaw's depictions are just as diverse. The first American Robin Hood film was a surreal 1912 silent featuring the Pal-

isades of New Jersey standing in for Sherwood Forest and Hood's inner personality portrayed by animal imagery superimposed over his face.

Less strange, but still rather odd, was the Canadian cartoon television series *Rocket Robin Hood*. It's most notable for its crazy theme song — "For now, they sing, 'with our Robin, we live on a star'—and cut-rate herky-jerky animation.

In live action he's been played by everyone from John Cleese in the time-travelling comedy *Time Bandits* to Frank Sinatra as Robbo in *Robin and the 7 Hoods*, a musical that transplanted the Robin Hood fable to 1930s gangland Chicago.

This weekend Russell Crowe takes on the role in a more traditional telling of the story from director Ridley Scott.

The most famous version of the "rob from the rich



Kevin Costner played the legendary outlaw in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*.

and give to the poor" legend is 1938's *The Adventures of Robin Hood* with Errol Flynn. Although it's his best known role Flynn has said he found playing the outlaw boring, but audiences loved him and the movie's sense of spectacle.

At the time of its release it was Warner's most expensive and action packed film, costing more than \$2 million and holding the record for the largest num-

ber of stuntmen ever used on any one movie. These days the movie may have faded from the collective's memory, but know it or not, you are probably familiar with the sound of Robin's arrow as it flies through the air. That sound effect is a favorite Ben Burtt who has recycled it in almost all of the Star Wars films.

Also well known, but not as well regarded is *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, featuring Kevin Costner in the lead role.

Not only did it feature Costner's atrocious English accent but it pushed another, far superior, telling of the tale — 1991's *Robin Hood* with Patrick Bergin and Uma Thurman — off the big screen to a direct-to-video release.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

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TURN ON TOMORROW

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The popular video game simulation Roller Coaster Tycoon will be dropping into theaters courtesy of Sony Pictures Animation. Heat Vision reports that the studio picked up the rights and Harald Zwart (*The Karate Kid*) will most likely helm the film. **IMDB.COM**

Movies

No rom-com cliché left untouched

Just Wright

Director: Sanaa Hamri
Stars: Queen Latifah, Common
Classification: PG
Rating: 80%

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada



Romantic comedies are like ATM machines for Hollywood studios.

The date night audience is huge and requires little originality or even thought from the filmmakers. Introduce a struggling single lady to Mr. Right, keep them apart until the last reel and you've got yourself a hit.

Just Wright hits all the hallmarks of the genre and it's just as trite as whatever is next on the rom-com assembly line.

Queen Latifah stars as a physical therapist and basketball fanatic who can't seem to find herself a man (sigh). A chance encounter brings her close to her favourite New Jersey Nets player (Common), but her



Queen Latifah, centre, and Common pair up in Just Wright.

hottie gold-digging sister (Paula Patton) wins his heart.

At least that's true until an injury throws his career in jeopardy and she jumps

ship. However, the player now needs a physical therapist and, yadda yadda yadda, love conquers all.

From the first scene the filmmakers slavishly fol-

low every tired rom-com formula imaginable. Not a single character appears on screen without servicing the love story.

Latifah's parents who

may or may not live with her but are around for every crisis, or her nerdy friend who shows up for one scene when she needs research material to heal

the injury that drives the plot forward (the guy is obviously an expert in the field because he requires glasses for his tired eyes that have been worn down from a lifetime of reading).

An above average cast lead by the likable Latifah/Common duo and aided by Pam "Foxy Brown" Grier and Phylicia "Mrs. Huxtable" Rashad do what they can with the material, but never make their characters feel like more than genre types.

Predictably, the direction by music video veteran Sanaa Hamri is slick and uninspired.

However, these criticisms will mean nothing to the target audience who will happily eat up the clichés between mouthfuls of buttered popcorn.

You get what you pay for with Just Wright, but isn't it about time that we demanded a little more from these movies?

• For a trailer of Just Wright, screentimes and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Movie morsels

Date Night

80%

REVIEW I'm not entirely sure where Date Night would be without Tina Fey and Steve Carell. After all, the two television comedians-turned-big screen stars take what is an overly familiar premise, directed by an often critically aloof filmmaker, and turn it into a thoroughly entertaining evening at the multiplex. The pair play Phil and Claire, a bored, married New Jersey couple who try to spice up their weekly "date night" by spontaneously going to a trendy new restaurant in Manhattan. Finding the establishment booked solid,

they take another couple's reservation only to get through the risotto before two corrupt cops with ties to the mafia escort them into an alley and demand a mysterious flash drive. From there, the mistaken marrieds end up on the run, a situation which generates comic moments.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

Iron Man 2

80%

REVIEW Iron Man 2 opens not with a bang but with a whimper, as Mickey Rourke's Ivan Vanko — later to become villain Whiplash, weeps over his dying father in a cluttered Moscow apartment. It's a

big risk for an action tentpole, but one a filmmaker like Jon Favreau can make riding a wave of goodwill after the franchise's critically and commercially successful first chapter two years ago. Unfortunately, Favreau and company spend the next two hours squandering all that good will. The film's primary problem is that it sidelines its main hero and villain, both Stark and Whiplash sequestered in their labs tinkering while supporting characters carry on without them.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

Kick-Ass

80%

REVIEW Matthew Vaughn's superhero flick Kick-Ass is

an outrageous mix of stylized violence and dark humour that both gently mocks and pays homage to decades of superhero lore. The film follows a boring and anonymous teen who decides to become a crime-fighter known as Kick-Ass. Predictably, he's not very good at it. But a grainy cell phone video makes him an internet sensation, drawing the attention of a local crime boss who wants to take down the costumed vigilante harming his family business.

Phil Brown/For Metro Canada

The Losers

80%

REVIEW Sylvain White's adaptation of lesser-known graphic novel The Losers

has a lot going for it, with decent action, gorgeous locations and a talented cast obviously enjoying themselves. But somehow, there's nothing in it to elevate the film above just all right entertainment. In a word, it's whelming. Not overwhelming, not underwhelming, just whelming. An elite team of soldiers gets double-crossed while on a mission in Latin America. Assumed to be out of commission by the powers that be, they go off the grid to get their revenge and clear their names through an elaborate and explosion-filled adventure. Leading the team is Clay (Jeffrey Dean Morgan).

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

A Nightmare on Elm Street

80%

REVIEW Wes Craven's original A Nightmare on Elm Street is a classic, and rightfully so. Sam Bayer's mammoth budgeted remake is not. In fact it ain't much of anything. Recycling not only the plot but most of the original's set pieces, NOES 2010 stars a gaggle of vacant, pretty teens who battle sleep deprivation in order to evade the nightmare infiltrating wrath of boogeyman named Freddy Krueger (Watchman's Jackie Earle Haley). Haley is poorly used and lacks enough menace.

Chris Alexander/For Metro Canada

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY. 14 TO THURS., MAY. 20. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS

Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail,
403-670-5444

Avatar (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-8
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:55-10
Crazy Heart (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-7:15-9:50
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-7:25-9:50
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 9:45
It's Complicated (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-7:05-9:50
The Losers (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15
Remember Me (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:50-7:10-9:30
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-7:20-9:40
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:30-8:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:55-7

CROWFOOT CROSSING

91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-4:15-7:15-9:45 Thu 12:50-4:15-9:45
Clash of the Titans 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30
Date Night (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20
Furry Vengeance (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-4:45-7:10
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:57-7:35-10:05
Iron Man 2 (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:40-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:10-10:35 No Passes Wed 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:40-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:10-10:35 No Passes Thu 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:40-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:10-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Letters To Juliet (PG) Fri-Tue 12:10-3:45-6:45-9:40 Wed 3:45-6:45-9:40 Thu 12:10-3:45-6:45-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Fri-Thu 9:55
Oceans (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40-9:50
Robin Hood (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:40-12:45-3:15-4:20-6:50-7:20-10:10-10:25
Times Talks Live: Lost (STC) Thu 8

EAU CLAIRE MARKET

200 Barley Parade, 403-263-3166

Date Night (PG) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:50
Iron Man 2 (PG) No Passes Fri 6:30-7:10-9:30-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:30-7:10-9:30-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-7:10-9:30-10
Letters To Juliet (PG) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
Robin Hood (14A) No Passes Fri 7:10-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:50-7:10-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-10
The Trotsky (14A) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:50-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS

388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:55-7:30
The Back-up Plan (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:40-4:15-7:20-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:45-7:20-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:20-10:05
Clash of the Titans 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-6:45-9:20
Date Night (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-6:50-9:40
Furry Vengeance (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-50
House Full (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:50-9:55
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:35-9
Iron Man 2 (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:20-4:50-6:45-7:15-8:45-10:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:30-1:30-3:50-4:20-4:50-6:45-7:15-8:45-10:20 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:30-1:30-3:50-4:20



Robert Downey Jr. reprises his superhero role in Iron Man 2.

4:50-6:45-7:15-8:45-10:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:20-4:50-6:45-7:15-8:45-10:20
Just Wright (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-7:10-10
Kick-Ass (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:15
Letters To Juliet (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-7:05-9:40
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:40-3:70-50-10:10
Oceans (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:05-6:40-9:10
Robin Hood (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:12-3:35-3:15-3:45-6:30-7:45-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:12-3:35-3:45-6:30-7:45-10:15 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:12-3:35-3:45-6:30-7:45-10:15

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL

100-16061 Macleod Trail, 403-974-0470

Avatar 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 8
The Back-up Plan (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:20
Clash of the Titans 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20
Date Night (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 2:42-5-6:40-9:40
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:35-6:50-9:30
Iron Man 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:15-12:45-1:15-3:30-4:40-6:45-7:15-7:45-10-10:30

Letters To Juliet (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:45
Robin Hood (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:12-3:35-3:15-3:45-6:30-7:45-10:15

GLOBE CINEMA

617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Fish Tank (STC) Fri 7:25 Sat-Sun 1:3-25-7:25 Mon-Thu 7:25
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Wed 6:50-9:20 Thu 9:20

MOVIEDOME

1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Badmaash Company (PG) Fri-Thu 2:40-6:30-9:15
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:55-9:40
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-10
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:55
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 1:4-6:50-9:55
The Losers (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:10-10:05
Repo Men (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:50
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:40-9:45

SCOTTIABANK CHINOOK

6455 Macleod Trail, 403-212-8994

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45-7:35-10:25
The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri-Tue 1:40-6:10-9:50 Wed 1:40-5-9:50 Thu 1:40-5-7:10-9:50
Clash of the Titans 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-

2:15-4:55-7:35-10:15
Date Night (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:45 Thu 1:15-4-9:45
Furry Vengeance (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Thu 11:45-3:10-6:30-10
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-5:7-30-10:20
Iron Man 2 (PG) No Passes Fri 11:30-12:15-2:30-3:45-5:35-7:30-8:30-10:30-11:30 No Passes Sat 10:30-11:30-12:15-2:30-3:45-5:35-7:30-8:30-10:30-11:30 No Passes Sun 10:30-11:30-12:15-2:30-3:45-5:35-7:30-8:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 11:30-12:15-2:30-3:45-5:35-6:30-7:30-8:30-9:20-10:30 No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-3:45-7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:45-7:15-10:15
Iron Man 2: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20-12 No Passes Sat 10:30-3:40-6:30-9:20-12 No Passes Sun 10:30-3:40-6:30-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:30-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:30-9:20
Just Wright (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-7:50
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 10:10
Letters To Juliet (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-10:05
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Oceans (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2
Robin Hood (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:50-12:40-3:15-4:10-6:50-7:15-10:30-10:35
Times Talks Live: Lost (STC) Thu 8

PLAZA THEATRE

1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-

3636

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri 9:30 Sat 2:30-9:30 Sun 7:10 Mon 4:45 Tue 7:10 Wed-Thu 9:30
All About Dad (STC) Fri 7
La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet (STC) Sun 12 Mon 6:50
Edward Scissorhands (PG) Sat 4:30 Sun 9:10 Tue 9:10
Fellini's Amarcord (STC) Thu 7
Found Footage Film Festival (STC) Sat 7
Time Bomb (STC) Sun 4:30
When You're Strange (14A) Sun 2:40 Mon 9:35 Wed 7:15

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM

2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-7:10-10:10
Clash of the Titans 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:25-3:20-7:05-10 Wed 12:25-3:20-10 Thu 12:25-3:20-7:05-10
Date Night (PG) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:25-6:55-9:30 Wed 3:25-6:55-9:30 Thu 12:55-3:25-6:55-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Ekam - Son of Soil (14A) Fri-Thu 11:55-3:55-7:55
Furry Vengeance (PG) Fri-Thu 11:35-2:20-6:40
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-6:35-9:15
Iron Man 2 (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-12:1-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:8-9:40-10:05 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-4:70-10:35
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 9:25
Letters To Juliet (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:40-7:20-10:15 Wed 3:40-7:20-10:15 Thu 12:50-3:40-7:20-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:25-7:35-10:20
Robin Hood (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-12:15-3:15-3:45-6:45-7:15-10:10-10:40

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN

612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Chloe (18A) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:45-7:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:15
Crazy Heart (14A) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 12:30-5 Mon-Thu 5
Exit Through the Gift Shop (14A) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 3:7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
The Last Station (14A) Fri 4:45 Sat-Sun 12:20-4:45 Mon-Thu 4:45

WESTHILLS 10

165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

The Back-up Plan (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:15-8:40
Date Night (PG) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:40-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:25-8:35
Furry Vengeance (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:7:45 Mon-Thu 5:25
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:30
Iron Man 2 (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-12:50-1:20-3:10-3:45-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-6:30-8:05-9
Letters To Juliet (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:25-7:55
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Fri-Sun 10:15 Mon-Thu 7:45
Robin Hood (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-1:10-3:35-4:10-6:40-7:15-9:50-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:50-7:40-8:50

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Music

The sacred and the profane

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Brian Borcherdt is relieved. His band's new album is finally on the streets. "It's like an annoying little brat of a child leaving for college," he says, joking about Latin, Holy F—k's latest effort.

The last time the Toronto-based electronica band released any new music was 2007. Since then, the group has gone from relatively obscurity to globe-trotting touring act.

"The last disc was a slow burning record," says Borcherdt. "We toured it for the last four years."

But, being in a band like Holy F—k, which started as an improvisational live act, doesn't mean they have to stick to a formula every night. With their various keyboards, pedals and noise machines, they can crank out any sounds they want.

"We don't feel like we



Latin is the latest album from Holy F—k. The Toronto electronic band's last album, LP, was nominated for the 2008 Polaris Music Prize.

have to play a certain record," he says. "We're always playing new material and mixing it with old material. Even those songs have changed so much that we forget they're old."

While the band still improvises on stage, their albums, which were previously written on the fly, are now fully formed tunes.

"This record has more thought out ideas than

anything in the past," says Borcherdt. "We write things, craft them on stage and then bring them into the studio."

While the new disc still has plenty of frenetic

noise, clubby beats and discordant, droney electronica, it's also softer and more atmospheric than previous discs. Some may miss the wild pace of their old songs, but this is clearly an album by a band. The songs are focused and clear — you can actually hear Latin America's groovy rhythm track and spacey keyboard sounds, while the catchy SHT MTN sounds like a more traditional electro-pop rocker.

That tighter sound is a product of a once loose lineup of players becoming an actual touring, money-making act. At one point they just played with whoever was around, but as more cities came calling, the group was forced to solidify their players and become an actual band.

"When we started we wanted to share this band with anyone who was willing to play," he says. "Any of our friends could join us. But then we became more

"We're always playing new material and mixing it with old material. Even those songs have changed so much that we forget they're old."

Brian Borcherdt

about making records and touring and you can imagine that it's easier to do with an actual band than an imaginary one."

But being a band isn't enough. It helps to know what you're doing. "We've gotten better at this," says Borcherdt, who, like the rest of the group, got his start playing in rock bands. "When we started we didn't know anything. It was more about plugging this thing and seeing how it feeds back. Now I know what's going to happen when we do something to a mixer."

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Amazon.ca's bestselling albums

1. Exile On Main Street (Delux Edition), The Rolling Stones; 2. Forgiveness Rock Record, Broken Social Scene;
3. Sea of Cowards, The Dead Weather; 4. Troubadour Live, Carole King & James Taylor. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

The facts of Li(f)e

Hip-hop artist Sage Francis draws inspiration from his fans

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada



"Life is just lie with an f in it and death is definite."

It's surprising how one off-the-cuff lyric can become the mantra for thousands.

Such is the case with Paul "Sage" Francis and this simple observation from the 2002 song The Cure. Over the past eight years, the Providence, R.I., hip-hop artist's words have proven so meaningful to fans that they have taken on a life (pun intended) of their own.

"The concept is something I followed from my fan base," Francis admits. "That particular lyric resonated very strongly with a portion of (them). They started encapsulating that by spelling it (with) the f in

parenthesis. It became the symbol of that lyric; that concept."

Francis felt compelled to utilize the line as the title of his latest full-length album Li(f)e. Delving deeper into exactly what that statement could mean resulted in 12 diverse tracks featuring everything from straightforward hip hop to borderline indie rock, an approach Francis feels is as unusual and surprising as that which it endeavours to understand.

"Life isn't a straight line and neither is this record," he asserts. "It varies depending on the mood of what I'm saying... The driving force of a lot of this album's content is discussing those things and how they apply to my life."

Initially apprehensive

about tying himself even closer to the ideology, Francis admits that as Li(f)e began to unfold, he realized that the album was more about appreciating his own vision than worrying about

that of others.

"Everything came together and worked on multiple levels. I felt it was time for me to use that symbol of that life spelling and bring it full-circle."



Li(f)e is the new album from hip-hop artist Sage Francis.

Sage Francis plays The Distillery May 29

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After 100 Metro columns, perhaps it's time to answer some reader email:

Q Why is new music always released on Tuesday?

— Ian, Vancouver.

A Before the 1980s, a new album could end up in the stores on any day of the official week of release. Exactly what day it appeared on the shelves depended on when a particular store got its shipment from the record label. This, however, made keeping track of sales very difficult and inefficient. It was also unfair to stores and fans outside of large urban centres — those places far away from the warehouses, where you might wait a week or more for the shipment of that album to arrive.

Eventually, the labels got together and agreed that the supply chain would be

coordinated so that all new releases appeared in stores simultaneously on the same day of the week. Tuesdays are now known as the "street date."

Things are slightly different in the U.K. where the street date is Monday. Before the Internet, this wasn't an issue. Now, however, it's common for a North American artist to see their record on sale in the U.K. a full 24 hours before it appears in stores at home.

Q What is this "180 gram vinyl" I keep hearing about?

— Sadie, Toronto.

A A good question for people who have rediscovered vinyl. Normal records are pressed from polyvinyl chloride. When spread out to album thickness, they can weigh anywhere from 100 to 120 grams. Audiophile-grade 180 gram vinyl weighs 180 grams per square yard. This makes the record thicker, heavier and less prone to warping so that the tone arm tracking is more true, resulting in (theoretically) better sound.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

ABC has picked up its first new series for the fall, the drama *No Ordinary Family*. It follows a family with superhero powers and stars Michael Chiklis (*The Shield*) as the patriarch and Julie Benz (*Dexter*) as his wife. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Television

Comedy Central pulls the plug on Sarah Silverman

TELEVISION On her Comedy Central show, Sarah Silverman got drunk on cough syrup, mocked the abortion rights debate and seduced none other than God.

That's all over now. The network says the Sarah Silverman Program, which recently ended its third outrageous season, won't be back for a

fourth. Inspired by Silverman's persona as a standup comic, the scripted show featured her as a flighty, self-consuming slacker living in the fictional town of Valley Village.

Audience erosion was deemed the main reason for cancelling the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



J.J. Abrams' jam-packed life



J.J. Abrams' groundbreaking *Lost* is coming to an end.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

J.J. Abrams is one busy man.

With his latest hit series, *Fringe*, gaining new fans, several new TV and film projects in the works and the teaser trailer for his next film, *Super 8*, burning up the Internet, the writer, director and producer has one of the most crowded plates in the entertainment industry.

At least one of his projects, the groundbreaking TV series *Lost*, is wrapping up. Abrams found the time to sit down with Metro — on a Sunday, no less — to talk shop.

writing *Star Trek* with Alex [Kurtzman] and Bob [Orsi]. Bryan Burk is my producing partner on everything.

Q How involved are you with *Fringe*?

A Well, my role in *Fringe* now is to be there when they need me to be there, and it actually would be more damaging to come in, you know, kind of periodically and just kick things around. Because if you're not in there and present for all the discussions, you're reacting to certain things that are in process, and you're not as informed. They're running the show. So it's hard for me to say, "OK, you run the show unless I come in and screw you up." This is a big question for me: How much do I get involved?

Q What can you say about *Lost* coming to an end?

A I feel like *Lost* did a wonderful thing in ABC and Damon [Lindelo] and Carlton [Cuse] came to this agreement to allow the show to end after the sixth season, which three years ago, I think was a shockingly bold thing for the network to agree to. But I think it was really smart because I think that the show will end on its own terms. It will end in a way that, I think, will allow the show to not have gone on two years after it should have.

Q How many projects are you working on at the moment?

A I'm getting some more fingers sewed onto my hand. There are a number of projects, but I'm one of a number of people working on those things. It's not like it's me alone in this room. We're editing a new show [Undercovers, for NBC]. I wrote that with Josh Reims, who I used to work with on *Felicity*. We're also prepping this *Mission: Impossible* movie and working on the *Star Trek* sequel. Damon is

Q Is it tough juggling so many projects?

A There are moments it's just, you know, it's nightmarish because you realize each one of these you want to work on full-time. On the other hand it seems, though I have very big eyes. I get very optimistic about how much I can do. The truth is I still take my kid to school every day and put him to bed every night. I don't work on weekends.

Q Except for today.

A Right. My kids went, "What?" I'm really sorry. This is an exception. There are days when I do work on six or eight things in one day, and I'll come home, and (my wife) Katie will be like, "So how was your day?" And I don't even know. There are days where it's crazy, but a lot of days, it feels oddly focused.... It's when things are going wrong and there are fires to put out that you want to just quit.

Ricci revs up for the stage

Christina Ricci will make her Broadway debut in Donald Margulies' *Time Stands Still* when the Tony-nominated play resumes performances in September.

The 30-year-old actress will join previously announced original cast mem-

bers Laura Linney, Brian d'Arcy James and Eric Bogosian. Producers made the announcement Thursday. *Time Stands Still* has two Tony nominations: best play and best actress for Linney. Ricci's screen credits include *The Addams Family*, *The Ice Storm* and *The Opposite of Sex*.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
243	317	3	CFCN	etalk	Access H.	Medium "Dead Meat" (N)	Ghost Whisperer (N)	The Bridge (N) (DVS)	CTV News		
-	-	4	OMNI	King	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition	Omni News: Cantonese Edition	Two/Half Men	Coach		
-	371	5	KXLY	4 News at 6	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight	Wife Swap (N)	Primetime: What Would You	20/20 (N)		
245	306	6	CBRT	22 Minutes	Laughs	Ron James: West Coast Wild	CBC News: The fifth estate	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
244	338	7	CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	(8:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)	Shark Tank	News Hour		
246	-	8	CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries	Warehouse 13	Scrubs	Scrubs	Murdoch Mysteries	EP Daily		
-	372	12	KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Medium "Dead Meat" (N)	Miami Medical		
-	374	14	KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)	Washington	McLaughlin	Need to Know (HDTV) (N)	News	Carnegie Hall	Appalachia	
-	370	16	KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Dateline NBC (HDTV)			
-	373	22	KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Kitchen Nightmares (N)	News		
502	390	15	CBC	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	Doc Zone		
500	500	29	CNN	Larry King Live (N)	Anderson Cooper 360	"American Al Qaeda" (HDTV) (N)	Larry King Live	Larry King Live	Cooper 360		
501	391	52	CTV	CTV News Tonight	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News		
400	400	21	TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre	NBA Basketball	Playoffs: Teams TBA. (HDTV)	Sportsnet Connected (N)	SportsCentre		
408	418	27	net	(6) Hockey Memorial Cup: Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)				Ultimate Fight			
552	543	20	YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	Lovewrecked (2006, Adventure)	Amanda Bynes	Things I Hate	Survive This	To Be Indie	
557	541	39	FAM	Wizards-Place	Jonas	Good-Charlie	Good-Charlie	Camp Rock (2008, Musical Comedy)	Joe Jonas	Holes	
603	561	25	FOOD	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners, Drive, Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares	Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	
615	520	26	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	(10:01) Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds		
617	522	32	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter	Nightmare at the End of the Hall (2008, Drama)	Sara Rue	Kenny vs.		
520	505	35	DISC	Canada's Worst Handyman	Egypt Unwrapped (N)	Daily Planet	Canada's Worst Handyman	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs		
628	584	43	SPIKE	Ways to Die	(7:45) Entourage	Entourage	Entourage	UFC Prime	GameTrailers	Good Pets-Bad	
522	516	45	HIST	Ultimate Engineering	Ark Men "The Close Call"	Nostrodramas Effect	Kiss the Girls ** (1997, Suspense)	The Girlies ** (1997, Suspense)			
-	-	47	AMC	(6) Unforgiven **** (1992, Western)		Tigerland *** (2000, Drama)	Colin Farrell, Clifton Collins Jr.	Amityville Horror			
581	566	102	MTV	Cribs	Cribs	The Hills	After	1 girl 5 guys	MTV Live	Cribs	MTV Live

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
243	317	3	CFCN	W5 (DVS)	Law & Order: SVU	Flashpoint (DVS)	Law & Order "Crashers"	CTV News			
-	-	4	OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition	Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	In Love With the Dead *** (2007, Horror)	Shawn Yue	Most Amazing		
-	371	5	KXLY	4 News at 6	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight	Just Like Heaven ** (2005, Romance-Comedy)	Movie	Castle		
245	306	6	CBRT	NHL Hockey	Cheaters' Club ** (2006, Drama)	Charisma Carpenter	Dane Cook	G-Spot	News Final (N)		
244	338	7	CICT	16:9-Picture	renegade press	Glenn Martin	Out There	(DVS)	Cruose		
246	-	8	CKAL	Cooking	Most Amazing	Grey's Anatomy	May-December	Time Goes By			
-	372	12	KREM	News	Scrubs	CSI: NY "Greater Good"	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men			
-	374	14	KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show	Judge Judy	CSI: NY "Greater Good"	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men			
-	370	16	KHQ	KHQ-News 6	Kids	Nazi King	Newsroom	Newsroom			
502	390	15	CBC	National	News Special	Nazi King	Newsroom	Newsroom			
500	500	29	CNN	Larry King Live	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News			
501	391	52	CTV	CTV News Weekend	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News			
400	400	21	TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre (HDTV)	Replay	Poker Challenge	Saturday Night Poker	Sportsnet Con.		
408	418	27	net	MLB Baseball	Replay	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Suite Life	Han, Montana	Survive This	
552	543	20	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Wingin' It	Zoe 101	Suite Life	Han, Montana	Survive This	
557	541	39	FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Suite/Deck	Top Chef Masters	Crashers	Ultimate Recipe Showdown	Chopped		
603	561	25	FOOD	Chopped	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	(10:01) Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds		
615	520	26	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	I Am Legend (HDTV)	ReGenesis (HDTV)	The House Next Door (2006, Suspense)	Lara Flynn Boyle	I Am Legend		
617	522	32	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	License to Drill	(7:48) Jail	(8:21) Jail	Best of PRIDE Fighting	Best of PRIDE	
520	505	35	DISC	Deadliest Catch	(7:14) Jail	(8:21) Jail	(8:54) Jail	(9:27) Jail	The Kingdom ** (2007, Action)		
628	584	43	SPIKE	(6) Tsumami, the Aftermath ** (2006, Docudrama)	(HDTV) Tim Roth, Chiwetel Ejiofor	True Lies *** (1994, Action)	(HDTV) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis	Silverado			
522	516	45	HIST	(6) Above the Law (1988)							
-	-	47	AMC	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live	Movie Night	After	1 girl 5 guys	MTV Live	Movie Night
581	566	102	MTV	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live	Movie Night	After	1 girl 5 guys	MTV Live	Movie Night

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
243	317	3	CFCN	Law & Order (HDTV) A man's double life is revealed. (N)	I Have a Little Sugar	Aaram	Chardi Kalaa	Flashpoint (DVS)	Desperate Housewives	CTV News	
-	-	4	OMNI	News	Storm Stories	Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Extreme Makeover: Home	Bollywood Boulevard	Diversity in Policing	Nation of Cha	
-	371	5	KXLY	4 News at 6	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight	Just Like Heaven ** (2005, Romance-Comedy)	Movie	Castle		
245	306	6	CBRT	Victor: The Victor David Story	Felicity: An American Girl Adventure ** (2005)	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)	Survivorman (DVS)	CBC News: The National	fifth estate		
244	338	7	CICT	King of the Hill	Cleveland	The Simpsons	Family Guy (N)	Survivor: Hero			
246	-	8	CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries	Amer. Funniest Home Videos	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)	Nature (HDTV) (DVS)	Masterpiece Mystery! (N) (DVS)	West Coast		
-	372	12	KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)	The 2010 Miss USA Pageant	"Til Death	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy (N)	American Dad
-	374	14	KSPS	Lark Rise to Candleford	Nature (HDTV) (DVS)	Masterpiece Mystery! (N) (DVS)	West Coast				
-	370	16	KHQ	KHQ-News 6	Kids	Nazi King	Newsroom	Newsroom			
502	390	15	CBC	National	News Special	Nazi King	Newsroom	Newsroom			
500	500	29	CNN	Larry King Live	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News			
501	391	52	CTV	CTV News Weekend	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News			
400	400	21	TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)	Replay	Poker Challenge	Saturday Night Poker	Sportsnet Con.		
408	418	27	net	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Milwaukee Brewers.	The Princess Bride *** (1987, Adventure)	Cary Elwes, Robin Wright	Wingin' It	Zoe 101	Suite Life	Han, Montana	Survive This
552	543	20	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Wingin' It	Zoe 101	Suite Life	Han, Montana	Survive This	
557	541	39	FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Suite/Deck	Top Chef Masters	Crashers	Ultimate Recipe Showdown	Chopped		
603	561	25	FOOD	Chopped	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	(10:01) Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds		
615	520	26	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	I Am Legend (HDTV)	ReGenesis (HDTV)	The House Next Door (2006, Suspense)	Lara Flynn Boyle	I Am Legend		
617	522	32	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	License to Drill	(7:48) Jail	(8:21) Jail	Best of PRIDE Fighting	Best of PRIDE	
520	505	35	DISC	Deadliest Warrior	(6:54) Deadliest Warrior	(7:56) Deadliest Warrior	(8:58) Deadliest Warrior	Ocean's Eleven (2001, Comedy-Drama)	Mad Men	Breaking Bad	
628	584	43	SPIKE	Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)	Breaking Bad (HDTV) (N)	The Challenge: Fresh Meat II					
522	516	45	HIST	(5) Brubaker (1980, Drama)							
-	-	47	AMC	The Challenge: Fresh Meat II							
581	566	102	MTV	The Challenge: Fresh Meat II							

The man behind Sheldon

Big Bang Theory star credits writing for character's success

Playing Sheldon Cooper isn't rocket science. Nor, for that matter, is it theoretical physics, Sheldon's chosen field as the science virtuoso of The Big Bang Theory.

So says Jim Parsons, who plays Sheldon on that hit CBS sitcom.

"It's all right there in the script," Parsons insists. "I'm not trying to eschew credit or be falsely modest, but there's a part of me that feels like I didn't come up with anything. For me, for the most part, it's very clear: It's the words."

Fans of Big Bang might take issue with Parsons' self-appraisal, particularly after spending a cordial, non-Sheldony interview session with him. Granted, most people don't use the word "eschew" in everyday discourse, but for the most part, Parsons strikes a pleasingly impressive contrast to his sitcom alter ego, who happens to be socially challenged, nerdy, high-strung, blunt-spoken and beyond the pale in his devotion to science.

Parsons, on the other hand, has tried and given up understanding physics, is cheery and unassuming, and has a twinkle in his eye as he talks about the show. At 6-foot-2 and a young-looking 37, he shares Sheldon's lankiness, but not the uptight manner or Sheldon's goofy-sounding "gotcha!" substitute: "bazinga!" All in all, it's an object lesson in his skill as an actor.

Big Bang, concluding its third season this month, places Sheldon in a familiar sitcom premise: He shares an apartment with friend and fellow brainy CalTech scientist Leonard Hofstadter (played by Johnny Galecki, Roseanne). Geeky research chums Howard (Simon Helberg) and Rajesh (Kunal Nayyar) drop by with comically timed frequency.



Jim Parsons, right, plays nerdy Sheldon Cooper in the CBS sitcom The Big Bang Theory.

"Leonard wants to reach out and be part of the normal world. But Sheldon doesn't see the point, and in fact thinks the farther you can stay away from it, the better your work's going to be."

Jim Parsons, star of The Big Bang Theory

And across the hall, by sitcom good fortune, resides Penny, a lovely blonde played by Kaley Cuoco (8 Simple Rules) who aspires to be an actress but pays the rent by waiting tables at a Cheesecake Factory. She is notably not a genius.

If this thumbnail description sounds a bit by-the-book, Parsons wouldn't disagree.

"I said it from the beginning: From the description, some people are going to say, 'I don't care. I don't want to watch two nerds and their pretty neighbour.'"

Happily, The Big Bang Theory began life as much more. Then, under the tutelage of sitcom maestro Chuck Lorre (Two and a Half Men) it continued to grow.

The creative evolution

of the show might be framed in the same terms with which Sheldon received Penny's greeting, "How ya been?"

"Well," said Sheldon, literal as ever, "my existence is a continuum, so I've been what I am at each point in the implied time period."

Turns out, there was a point in Parsons' career continuum when even he wasn't sure how he felt about the show.

A Houston native who had a recurring role on Judging Amy and appeared in films including Garden State and School for Scoundrels, he arrived to audition for Sheldon having no clear reaction to the show overall.

He only knew from the script that he wanted to play Sheldon. "I wanted the chance to talk this

weird way that he talks, and this odd way he communicates with people."

Bazinga! The role as this head-in-the-clouds science savant was his.

"Leonard wants to reach out and be part of the normal world. But Sheldon doesn't see the point, and in fact thinks the farther you can stay away from it, the better your work's going to be," Parsons sums up.

Meanwhile, Penny is sufficiently astute to find things to like in both these guys, eccentricities and all. She has the insight to appreciate their mental capacity, however far it might loom beyond her reach.

So does Parsons, by the way.

"They're not just nerds, they're not just geeks. They are geniuses! They're beautiful minds," he declares. "And I've come to find that, for me as an actor, playing Sheldon opens up anything. Things that he would think of, ways that he would act — anything's possible for me. It's very freeing."

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Fox has ordered the comedy *Wilde Kingdom*. The series marks *Arrested Development* creator Mitch Hurwitz and star Will Arnett's return to Fox, which canceled the cult favourite in 2006. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Television

Baker shows off his Aussie charm

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Simon Baker has been enjoying incredible success with *The Mentalist*, now wrapping up its second season. As bogus psychic Patrick Jane, Baker has won Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations, and the series has enjoyed stellar ratings since its premiere.

The Australian actor sat down with Metro to talk about the series, improvisation and what's wrong with California beaches.

not that many shows that have this sort of success. You never really know. It's a funny balance. Success and good don't necessarily always mean the same thing. When I first saw the pilot, I liked the show, and I thought it was good. When you make a pilot, if you don't like it, you hope it doesn't go to series. If you do like it, you hope it does go to series. There are jobs that you go, "God, I hope this doesn't go to series."

Q Could you name one?

A Nothing I've done. (laughs)

Q Your character uses his charm to get what he wants. Have you ever resorted to something like that?

A Never. I don't rely on those cheap tricks. [laughs] Of course I do. You use whatever you can use, right? We're all sort of trying to make ends meet. This is



Australian actor Simon Baker, star of *The Mentalist*, says he misses the beaches from back home.

the biggest character I've ever played, which was at first a little bit frightening for me. I've always played more understated characters, and this guy is so overt. He's just larger than life. It can be a bit scary.

Q How is your working relationship with series creator Bruno Heller?

A Bruno and I have a very good collaboration. Sometimes I go, "I don't know if I can pull that one off, but I'll play around with it." I won't necessarily rewrite it. We'll sit down and have a little fiddle with it with a pen and paper, he and I. And I push the writers pretty hard on the show with my stuff when they're on the set. I'm con-

stantly talking to them, saying, "I'm going to try this." I will often change things. I won't always do the same thing twice. I won't repeat things. And I don't necessarily tell the other actors, which drives them nuts. I want to see a real reaction. I want to create.

Q Have you ever thought about writing something or directing an episode?

A Yeah, yeah. We've talked about me directing some episodes of the show, and I'd love to do it. I will probably do one in the next season. But the hard part is the preparation time. I'll be shooting an episode while that's happening, and then when it's in post-production, I'll be shooting another episode. I could bet you the shirt on my back that Warner Bros. is not going to give the week off for me to prep.

Q There seem to be a lot of Australians

working in Hollywood these days.

A I think there's a lot of Australian actors here that are working in television. You know, the chick from *Fringe* is Australian. There is a chick on — I'm not going to use that word. The young lady on *Fringe* is Australian. The young lady on *Chuck* is Australian. There's a lot of Australians working over here.

Q What do you miss about Australia now that you're in California full-time?

A I miss the beach the most.

Q The beaches here don't measure up?

A You're going to make me say, like, negative things about the beaches here? [Laughs] An Australian beach is very different from a California beach. The water is really cold here. That's what I miss, the warm water.

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Lori Browne, Dental Hygiene Graduate

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NEXT DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM STARTS JULY 19

NBC wants to reward its fans

Fans who share their passion for NBC shows online could earn the network's appreciation — and prizes — in return.

"Fan It," an initiative aimed at turning social-media users into an ad hoc promotional team for the network, will launch Monday, NBC said Thursday.

"A recommendation from a friend is infinitely more powerful than any message we can put out through conventional marketing channels," said Adam Stotky, president of NBC Entertainment Marketing.

After signing up on NBC's website and logging in to their Facebook, Twitter, My-



If you sign up for NBC's new initiative "Fan It" you might win a prop from the desk of Michael Scott from *The Office*.

Space or MyNBC accounts, participants earn points through activities such as chatting about series and steering friends to NBC-related links.

The points can be redeemed for rewards including sneak previews of shows, NBC merchandise

and entry into a sweepstakes to win big-ticket items such as a prop from *The Office*, the network said. A social-media promotion this season for *Chuck* gave a fan, the chance to have his photo included in the May 25 finale.

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Murphy boycotts Newsweek

Glee creator Ryan Murphy has issued an open letter, urging people to boycott Newsweek until it apologizes for a now-notorious article about gay actors playing straight roles. **EW.COM**

Going Out**Mix of Six****5th Annual Henry Burris All-Star Weekend**

When: All weekend
Where: Various locations

Interact with celebrity athletes while enjoying cocktails, dinner and the engaging stories from one of the greatest players in professional football, Warren Moon.

Tango and Latin Gala 2010

When: Friday
Where: Polish Canadian Association

Cocktails and four-course dinner. Dancing and concert mix of Tango played by Orquesta Libertango, Cha Cha and other dances.

Calgary Sports Collectors Fanfest

When: Friday & Saturday
Where: Deerfoot Inn & Casino Sundance Ballroom

Show features In The Game Redemption Program Live, Upper Deck Program, Booths from In The Game Trading Card Company and

more.

ACAD Graduating Student Exhibition

When: Until May 22
Where: Alberta College of Art + Design

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2nd Annual Pink and Green Ribbon Glitter & Glam Gala for Women

When: Friday
Where: Mount Norquay in Banff

Featuring live music by Banda Brava, MC Luka Symons, samba dance lessons, silent auction and more. \$60.

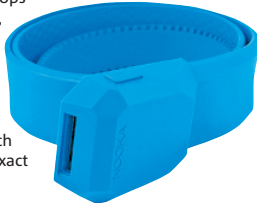
Calgary music Collectors Show

When: Saturday
Where: Acadia Recreation Complex

Dozens of dealers selling records, CDs, tapes, posters, memorabilia and more. \$4.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now**1 Nooka belts**

STYLE The company may be well known for its vinyl skins for laptops and music players, but Nooka has come up with a line of strip belts. These colourful creations feature an innovative snap and release closure system, allowing each wearer to adjust it to their exact waist size. nooka.com.

**2 Going Gaga**

INTERNET It seems Lady Gaga's music is good for any occasion — just take a look at YouTube. Among the best are a sixth grader singing Paparazzi to a gaggle of girls at a school concert, and a flash mob in San Francisco that re-interpreted Bad Romance to urge people to boycott hotels where workers are fighting to win a new contract and health care.

3 Finger in the Nose

FASHION Just because your kid is tot-sized doesn't mean he or she isn't a fashionista at heart. This French clothing line will give any kid attitude with clothes mom or dad would want to borrow. The company's e-store is still under construction, but does provide information on how to purchase its rock 'n' roll-inspired items. fingerinthenose.com

**4 True Blood bling**

ACCESSORIES The Simmons Jewelry Co. is celebrating the return of vampire-based romance and intrigue with a collection of silver trinkets inspired by True Blood. The collection includes the obligatory crosses, but also star- and skull-shaped charms, bracelets and rings. True Blood season three returns June 13. kay.com

5 Star Wars Tom Tom

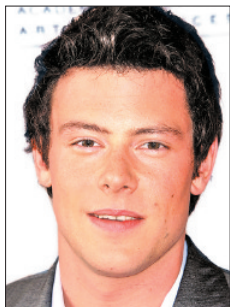
GADGETS Next time you are lost in traffic, or just trying to find your way to the nearest comic book store, your guide could be Darth Vader. The Star Wars character's voice is now being used by Tom Tom in its navigation system. Not sure about turning to the Dark Side? The company plans to introduce a Yoda voice in July, Han Solo in August, and C-3PO later on. starwars.tomtom.com

6 Invictus

DVD One team, one country, and now on DVD. Clint Eastwood's latest film chronicles the true story of how Nelson Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team to help unite the country. Invictus hits stores on Tuesday.

**7 Come Dine With Me**

TV The hit British TV show — which airs on W Network — is getting the Canuck treatment. It was announced this week that a Canadian version of the show, which searches for the best dinner host by having five people take turns creating three course meals, will begin shooting in Toronto later this year.



Teen singer Justin Bieber, left, and Glee star Cory Monteith are this year's fresh faces on Hello Canada magazine's most beautiful list.

Bieber and Monteith top Hello's most beautiful list

Teen idol Justin Bieber and Glee star Cory Monteith are among the fresh faces on Hello Canada's most beautiful Canadians list.

The mop-topped Stratford, Ont., singer appears

on the magazine's cover several weeks after making People magazine's coveted list of most beautiful celebs.

Glee actress Jessalyn Gilsig, Lost star Evangeline Lilly, and movie stars

Rachel McAdams and Ryan Reynolds also made the Canadian Top 50 list.

Other stars in the special issue include music veterans Celine Dion, Michael Buble, Avril Lavigne and Bryan Adams.

Mixed in with the celebs are Olympic heroes including curling skip Cheryl Bernard and speed skating lovebirds Charles Hamelin and Marianne St. Gelais.

The issue hit newsstands this week. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Kate Hudson has reached ultimate Hollywood Golden Girl status. Revlon Inc. named the fun-loving actress Almay's new Global Brand Ambassador. She will appear in television, print and internet ads later this year. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

The girls are baaaaaack!

SATC 2 is bringing over-the-top glamour into the spotlight. Here's how to get in the spirit.

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Sure, you may have replaced your Manolos with a pair of studded brogues.

And yes, you might be wearing more

beige than red. Never mind that fashion is moving steadfastly towards a place of minimalism and restraint. Sex and the City 2 is about to squash all of those gushing fashion blog posts you've read about streamlined, tailored camel coats.

Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda are back in all of their shiny, jeweled, turban-wearing glory.

So before the sequel to every city girl's favorite movie hits theatres, follow these steps to get yourself back into SATC mode.



The Sex and the City 2 movie hits theatres May 27. Gear up for the fashion-forward film by indulging in the purchase of some key glamour pieces.



1 PILE ON THE ETHNIC JEWELRY
The more gilded and colorful your necklace, bracelet and earrings, the better. Think glamour and far-away exotic locations. Fallon bib necklace, \$310, hopbop.com



2 LOAD UP ON HALSTON
The Halston plissé maxi dress will be to SATC2 what the Vivienne Westwood wedding dress was to SATC1: a must, must-buy. Get a jump on your friends by scoring the ivory version of Carrie's vacation frock now. Halston Heritage dress, netaporter.com.



3 COVER YOURSELF IN SEQUINS
Carrie and gang are perennial good time girls. And what is a good time without sequins? The shinier the better. H&M Fashion Against AIDS jacket, \$50, hm.com

4 LOVE THE STATEMENT SHOE
Shove the flats to the back of your closet. And get your feet used to wearing tall heels again. Ignore the pain. If Charlotte can walk through the hot desert sands in stilettos, surely you can make it down the pavement. ASOS platform sandals, \$135, asos.com.



5 EMBRACE THE HAREM PANT
The trendy trouser is about to get a third wind thanks to Samantha who rocks them during the ladies' decadent trip to Dubai. H&M Fashion Against AIDS trousers, \$30, hm.com.

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Carlton Cuse
Damon Lindelof

TimesTalksLive

Toy Story 3 the most anticipated of the 3-D releases

Among moviegoers on Fandango in New York, the most anticipated 3-D movie of the summer, is Toy Story "There's tons of anticipation on that one," says Henry Medved of movie chain Fandango. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Entertainment

The much loved Toy Story franchise is back for a third installment this summer. However this film will give the audiences a 3-D version of Buzz Lightyear and his pals.

3-D movies set to fill up theatres

Technology another tool for filmmakers

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

Thanks to a little movie called *Avatar*, this year will see 19 films being re-released in 3-D in the U.S. By comparison, in 2008, there was only five. A large number of these 3-D films will be released for the entertainment hungry hoards of the summer.

But after *Avatar*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, and *Alice in Wonderland* — which, judging by their ticket sales (well over 2.5 billion combined), everyone saw — are we reaching 3-D fatigue?

Simply put by Harry Medved, of New York

"3-D was never done well until *Avatar*. And frankly, directors never saw the potential of 3-D until that film."

Harry Medved, Fandango

movie chain Fandango: No way.

"3-D shows something you haven't seen before. Moviegoers think, 'I've got my \$10 bucks. Do I really want to pay for a movie that I can see at home? Or do I want to see something that will give me a more unique experience?' It's changing the game."

The popularity of the new crop of 3-D films is due to the fact that they actually deliver the goods,

unlike their cheesy counterparts of the 50s.

"3-D was never done well until *Avatar*, he says. "And frankly, directors never saw the potential of 3-D until that film."

It's the CGI technology that is making these films become the immersive and interactive experiences they now are. "Basically, special effects technology has finally caught up with the imagination of Hollywood's best story tellers."

Audiences becoming pickier

SHORTCOMINGS With *Avatar* now out of most theatres, the industrywide 3-D juggernaut is itself entering another dimension.

The immense box-office success of James Cameron's sci-fi epic proved the considerable draw of 3-D, and subsequent 3-D releases benefited from the buzz.

But the next wave of 3-D films — though still good bets for continued fortune — may not have it so easy.

Moviegoers, warming to technical terms like "convergence" and "stereospace," have become more cognizant of the difference between good and bad 3-D. Critics have weighed in on its shortcomings. And the general aura of novelty was never going to last for-

ever.

"People are definitely starting to see the difference," said Jon Chu, director of *Step Up 3-D*. "All these people putting Hollywood in check on why we're doing 3-D, why we're raising prices, I think it's a good thing for the art because it makes sure everyone is using 3-D for the right reasons."

Two of the top three post-*Avatar* 3-D releases — *Alice in Wonderland* and, especially, *Clash of the Titans* — were disparaged for their poor 3-D. Each was originally shot in 2-D and converted to 3-D in post-production.

And the most influential film critic in the land, Roger Ebert, made his strongest denunciation yet

of 3-D. In a recent *Newsweek* article, "Why I Hate 3-D (And You Should Too)," Ebert wrote: "Our minds use the principle of perspective to provide the third dimension. Adding one artificially can make the illusion less convincing."

Taken together, these events don't constitute a backlash, only the hints of one. After all, *Alice* earned \$879 million worldwide at the box office and *Clash* took in \$427 million.

Whether the next crop of 3-D movies — from *Shrek* to *Tron Legacy* — will continue to wow audiences will go a long way to determining if the new 3-D is here to stay, or yet another three-dimensional fad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A downside to 3-D films?

CONVERTING The huge popularity of 3-D films — more than 75 per cent of Fandango's ticket sales for *Avatar* were for 3-D and IMAX versions — has movie studios scrambling to convert 2-D movies into 3-D ones, meaning the effects just aren't as impressive as ones originally constructed that way.

"3-D movies created for 3-D viewing will always have better effects than 2-D converted to add another dimension," says Henry Medved of Fandango.

METRO WORLD NEWS

A summer of 3-D flicks

What you'll be seeing in more dimensions than two this summer:



- May 21: *Shrek Forever After*
- June 18: *Toy Story 3*
- July 9: *Despicable Me*
- July 30: *Cats & Dogs 3: The Revenge of Kitty Galore*
- Aug. 6: *Step-Up 3-D*

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**See this weekend's Sears flyer for details. Scratch card offer valid only on Sat., May 15 and Sun., May 16, 2010, while quantities last

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Entertainment



Getty Images' Rick Mayston says ghostwriters are like psychiatrists because they get people to remember things they normally wouldn't.

Ghostwriting, a booming biz

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News



Ghostwriting fun

- Some of Andrew Crofts's memories:
- "I had one author who wanted me to read the whole book out loud to him. That was very early in my career and I don't think I would agree to such a thing again now."
- "I did a book with a hooker from the Far East where all the interviewing was done in a very overheated hotel bedroom in London and we both fell asleep on the bed with the tape recorder running."

Andrew Crofts may appear as an African dictator. Or as an 11-year-old girl sold into marriage, a Bulgarian oligarch, or a futurist who owns a Bermudan island.

Crofts is not a psychopath: He's a ghostwriter. "I get two-three book requests every day", says Crofts, the ghost-author of 80 books and the handbook *Ghostwriting*. "Some have publishers, while others just decide to pay for it themselves."

For ghostwriters, a bigger challenge than creating the book is often keeping their famous writing partners happy. For *The Ghost*, a ghostwriter in Roman Polanski's new movie, *The Ghost Writer*, the writing partnership turns both dangerous and testy. A former British Prime Minister — Pierce Brosnan playing a thinly veiled Tony Blair — resents collaborating with the wordsmith, played by Ewan McGregor. Robert Harris wrote the book on which Polanski's film is based; he fell out with his friend Tony Blair over the Iraq war. Prefacing each chapter of Harris's book is a sentence from Andrew Crofts's *Ghostwriting*.

Today every short-lived celebrity wants to write a book. That's good news for ghostwriters, the often-ridiculed step-children of the literary world. Paris Hilton has penned a book about her life, as have soccer players, John F. Kennedy's mistresses and seemingly every reality TV show contestant. Ghostwriters have even discov-

ered an emerging niche market: Tweeting for celebrities.

"Finding a person who has had a long career but remains popular is extremely hard", explains Rick Mayston, European Publishing Director for Getty Images. "There's not a lot to say about a 20-year-old soccer player. There are too many celebrity autobiographies today, and publishers are often frustrated by having to publish them. But it subsidizes their more serious books."

"A good ghostwriter is almost like a psychiatrist", Mayston says. "He or she has to get people to remember things they hadn't thought about."

Even though Andrew Crofts's books have sold in over 10 million copies, most critics would never review them. "Books like mine come and go", he says. "But people who buy them would never read serious literature anyway. Do the literary experts expect all books to be like Nabokov? In that case 95 per cent of people would never read a book."

Redmond releases

Redmond O'Neal has been released from rehab. The 25-year-old son of Ryan O'Neal and late actress Farrah Fawcett has left the Impact Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center in Pasadena, CA., and has now been moved to a sober living environment, femalefirst.co.uk reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

entertainment **37****Celebrity Buzz**

Tempers flare in Twilight land

WEIRD BECAUSE SHE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A PLEASANT PERSON TO BE AROUND Looks like there may be trouble in paradise between Twilight co-stars Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, who reportedly got in a fight during reshoots for the next chapter of the successful franchise.

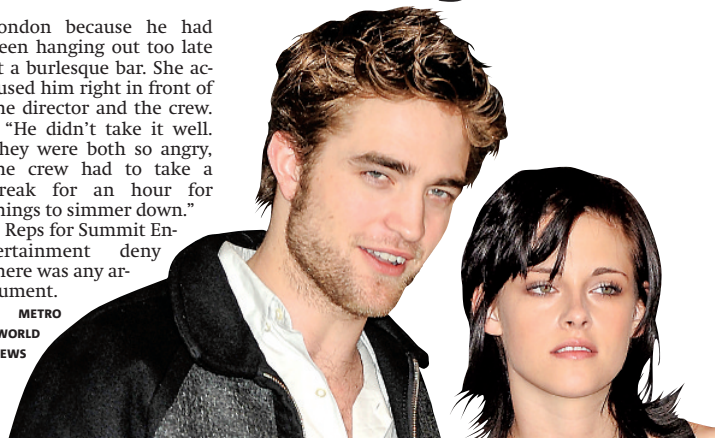
"Kristen asked for a reshoot because she didn't like her wig in the scene. Robert turned up later on the set," a source says. "When Robert arrived, he and Kristen started fighting. She accused him of taking a later flight from

London because he had been hanging out too late at a burlesque bar. She accused him right in front of the director and the crew.

"He didn't take it well. They were both so angry, the crew had to take a break for an hour for things to simmer down."

Reps for Summit Entertainment deny there was any argument.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Looking for a free ride

SHE SHOULD TRY USING HER THUMB Lindsay Lohan has reportedly been trying to score a trip to France to drum up investors for her new Linda Lovelace biopic, *Inferno*, at the Cannes Film Festival. The only problem is no one's willing to foot the bill, according to Page Six. "She's been asking around, but hasn't had any takers," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

ASHTON KUTCHER is worried about the planet, **SARAH BROWN** wants you to know her husband isn't completely out of a job, **LILY ALLEN** needs restaurant recommendations, and **NEIL PATRICK HARRIS** is looking for a new job.

@aplusk what is going on with all the natural disasters?

@SarahBrownUK Gordon is still happily the MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath (he resigned as party leader not as member of parliament)

@lilyroseallen Where's good to eat on the west side of hampburg?

@ActuallyNPH I love that NPH.com is the Nazarene Publishing House. I wonder if they'd let me hock merchandise.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Creating their own boy band?

KINGSTON'S THE GUITARIST, ZUMA'S ON DRUMS, NOW THEY JUST NEED A VOCALIST Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale are reportedly getting ready to welcome baby No. 3 into their home, sources tell Star magazine.

One source spotted Stefani acting odd recently.

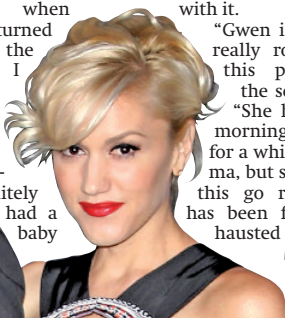


"She was pulling at her shirt to keep it away from her body. It seemed really strange," the source says. "But then, when she turned to the side, I could see why. She definitely had a baby bump."

Another source insists to the magazine that the singer is pregnant — and not having a great time with it.

"Gwen is having a really rough time this pregnancy," the source says. "She had all-day morning sickness for a while with Zuma, but she's sicker this go round and has been feeling exhausted and dizzy."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Potential baby making provides perspective

LIKE SMOKING IS BAD FOR YOU AND COCAINE IS ADDICTIVE Kate Moss is having hypnotherapy to help her give up cigarettes and alcohol in a bid to get pregnant, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel — who in the past has insisted on having 100 cigarettes near her at all times — is reportedly taking action so she and her fiancé, The Kills guitarist Jamie Hince, can start a family together.

A friend told The Sun newspaper: "Kate is aware

that she smokes heavily and probably drinks a little too much. So she has been to see a Harley Street therapist to help her break those habits.

"Jamie's keen to start a family and Kate knows that it

would be wise to try and conquer her vices before she gets pregnant again."

The British fashion icon — who already has a seven-year-old daughter Lila Grace from her relationship with Jefferson Hack — tried to kick her nicotine habit in February 2009, but couldn't quit permanently.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Miley shakes her shanks with Shankman

UM, HE'S GAY. AND WHAT WERE KIDS DOING AT A WRAP PARTY ANYWAY?

Miley Cyrus is causing an uproar with a leaked video of her giving a provocative lap dance to 45-year-

old producer Adam Shankman at the wrap party for *The Last Song* seven months ago, according to Radar Online.

The video shows Cyrus grinding up against the openly gay Shankman.

"The worst part is that there were little kids at the party and the dancing between Miley and Adam was so dirty that some of the parents actually left the party and took their kids home," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



So much in common

LIKE STELLAR TASTE IN MEN. DID YOU CATCH THE SARCASTIC THERE? The new issue of *Us Weekly* reports that Kate Hudson and Cameron Diaz are locked in a bitter battle over Alex Rodriguez. (On May 2, Diaz was spotted leaving A-Rod's \$30,000-a-month penthouse with overnight bags; Hudson dated the Yankees slugger from May to December of last year.)

An insider believes Diaz is bedding Rodriguez as a form of retaliation after Hudson hooked up with

Justin Timberlake in January 2007 — just two days after the couple of four years split.

"Kate thinks it's payback, pure and simple," the insider says. And Hudson's not 100 per cent wrong.

Says a Diaz pal, "Cameron was actually in a serious long-term relationship with Justin. She thinks it's a joke Kate would be mad. Kate is only upset because she hates being single."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Sean Penn to pay his penance

FOR PUSHING OVER A PAPARAZO Sean Penn has been ordered to undertake anger management counseling, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 49-year-old actor was not in court Wednesday to hear a judge rule he must undergo 36 hours of therapy, perform 300 hours of community service and be placed on probation for three years after he pleaded no contest to vandalism following a spat with a photographer last year. The actor has been permitted to complete his community service working for his Haiti charity.

His lawyer, Richard Hirsch, said: "Prolong-

ing this matter in the court system would not have been in Mr Penn's best interests and would have distracted from his charitable commitments, specifically his work in Haiti. Accordingly he has decided to accept the

terms and move on."

The actor had originally been charged with misdemeanor battery and vandalism, which could have led to an 18-month jail term, but

agreed a plea bargain, which saw the charges dropped to misdemeanor vandalism.

METRO WORLD NEWS





Today
Partly cloudy
19°C / 5°C

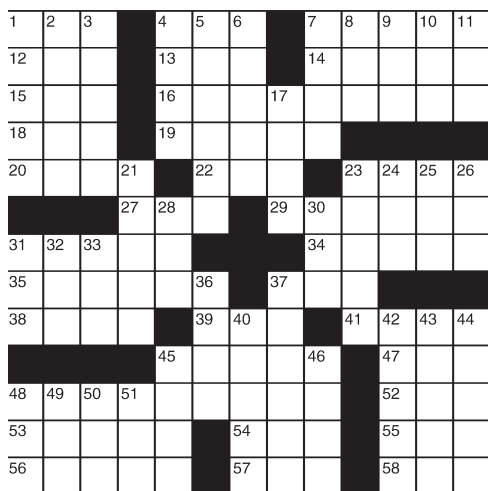


Saturday
Mostly sunny
20°C / 6°C



Sunday
Mostly sunny
22°C / 7°C

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Old airline initials
4 Spinning stat
7 Draw a conclusion
12 Disencumber
13 — Baba
14 In grand style
15 Blackbird
16 Marceau's specialty
18 "Rocks"
19 Offspring
20 Therefore
22 Doctrine
23 Constrictors
27 Young fellow
29 Stain fighter
31 Climbing flora
34 Third rock from the sun
35 Strip
37 Toss in
38 Go after
39 Gilligan's house
41 Practice pugilism
45 1945 conference site
47 Whopper

48 Accompaniment to lip-synching?
52 Navy rank (Abbr.)
53 Hackneyed
54 Edge
55 Afternoon social
56 On mom's side
57 Whatever amount
58 Kreskin's claim

DOWN

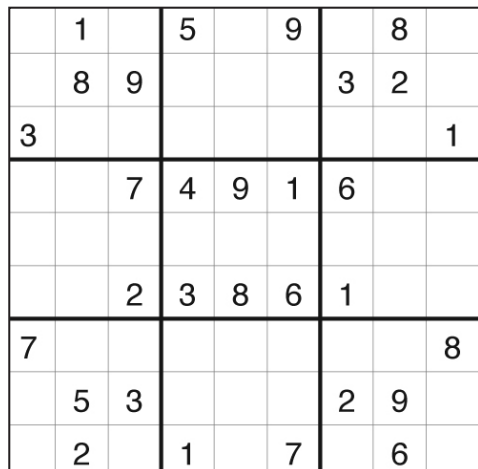
1 Characteristic
2 Hoisting mechanism
3 Farewell
4 Seance sounds
5 Tranquil
6 Short skirts
7 Aware of
8 — de plume
9 "Criminal Minds" org.
10 Shade source
11 Deli bread
17 Mummy's locale
21 Streamlined

23 Abacus parts
24 Rowing need
25 Performance
26 "Quiet!"
28 Foolish sort
30 Blazed a trail
31 Check-casher's two, perhaps
32 Compete
33 "— got it!"
36 Asian cuisine
37 Reach
40 Extreme
42 Dish
43 Staffers
44 Alter the chart
45 Christmastime
46 Host
48 Honest politician?
49 Actor McShane
50 Genetic stuff
51 "Roscoe"

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Shrimp Scampi

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 lbs large shrimp
2 tsp olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
2/3 cup bottled clam juice or reduced-sodium, low-fat chicken broth
3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
Salt to taste
1/8 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
1 tsp cornstarch blended with 1 tbsp water
1/4 cup chopped parsley

METHOD:

1. Shell and devein shrimp.

2. Spray large nonstick skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Add oil and heat over medium heat. Add garlic and cook until tender, 2 minutes.

3. Add shrimp and cook,

stirring, until almost cooked through, 3 minutes. Add clam juice, lemon juice, salt and red pepper flakes and bring to boil. Cook until shrimp are opaque throughout, about 1 minute.

4. With slotted spoon, transfer shrimp to serving plates. Bring liquid in skillet to boil, stir in cornstarch mixture; cook, stirring, until sauce is lightly thickened, about 1 minute. Stir in parsley and spoon sauce over shrimp.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



Good news is coming your way and it will affect you where you need it most — in your pocket. Be careful though that you don't spend all your money

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



However friendly you may be with a certain individual, if they are taking up too much of your time and energy you must cut them adrift.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Any day can be a new beginning but with a new moon in your sign this is the best day of all to change your life for the better.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



It may seem as if you are dancing to someone else's tune but you are not as helpless as you think you are.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Why are you hiding away where no one can find you? Maybe it's because you are going through one of your occasional bouts of soul searching.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



If you are called upon to make a quick decision then make it and don't look back. It may not be the best decision but if you stand still you'll miss out.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



If you talk to someone whose ideas you tend not to agree with today you may be surprised to learn that you are not so far apart in your views after all.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



Because today's new moon falls in one of the most dynamic areas of your chart you cannot be forced into doing anything against your will.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



You must not give in to pressure today. If you show the slightest hint of weakness you will put yourself at a disadvantage, especially on the work front.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Be ready to put other people's needs ahead of your own today, even if it means you run the risk of missing out on something you were looking forward to.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



You are thinking of moving on or doing something different with your life. That's great, but have you talked it over with your loved ones? You should.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



Let friends and relatives know what it is you require of them and they will go out of their way to meet your expectations. That makes a change!

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DIESEL
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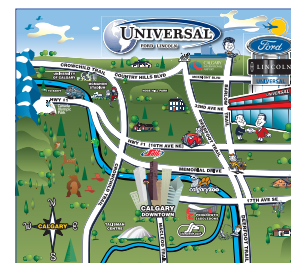
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